2
W
Sunny
TAIYŌ MATSUMOTO

W
2

TAIYO MATSUMOTO

Sun

CHAPTER 9

"The sun is great! It comes back every morning."

"The earth's goin' around it, y'know."

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CHAPTER 8

"What's a guppy a baby of?"

"A guppy is a baby guppy."

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CHAPTER 7

"When I get married I wanna wear a dress in a chapel."

"What's a chapel?"

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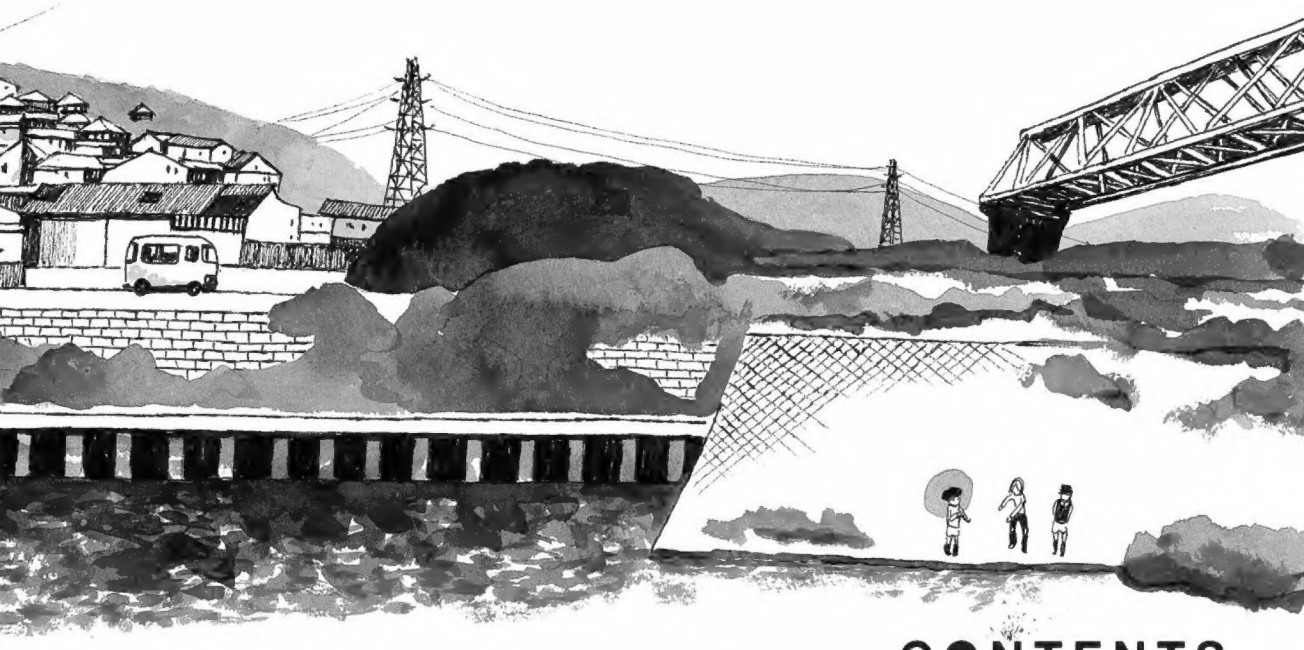

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"The city always seems angry."

"Like it's shoutin' 'HEY!' or somethin'?"

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CHAPTER 10

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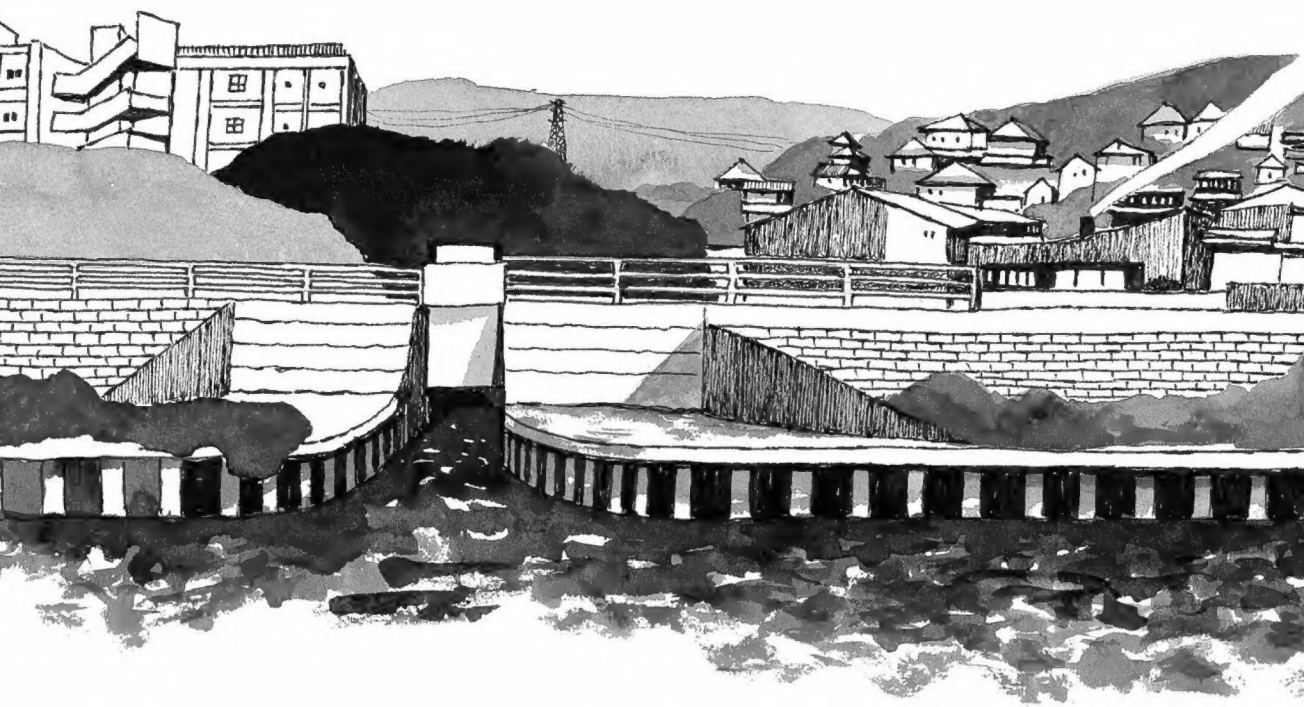


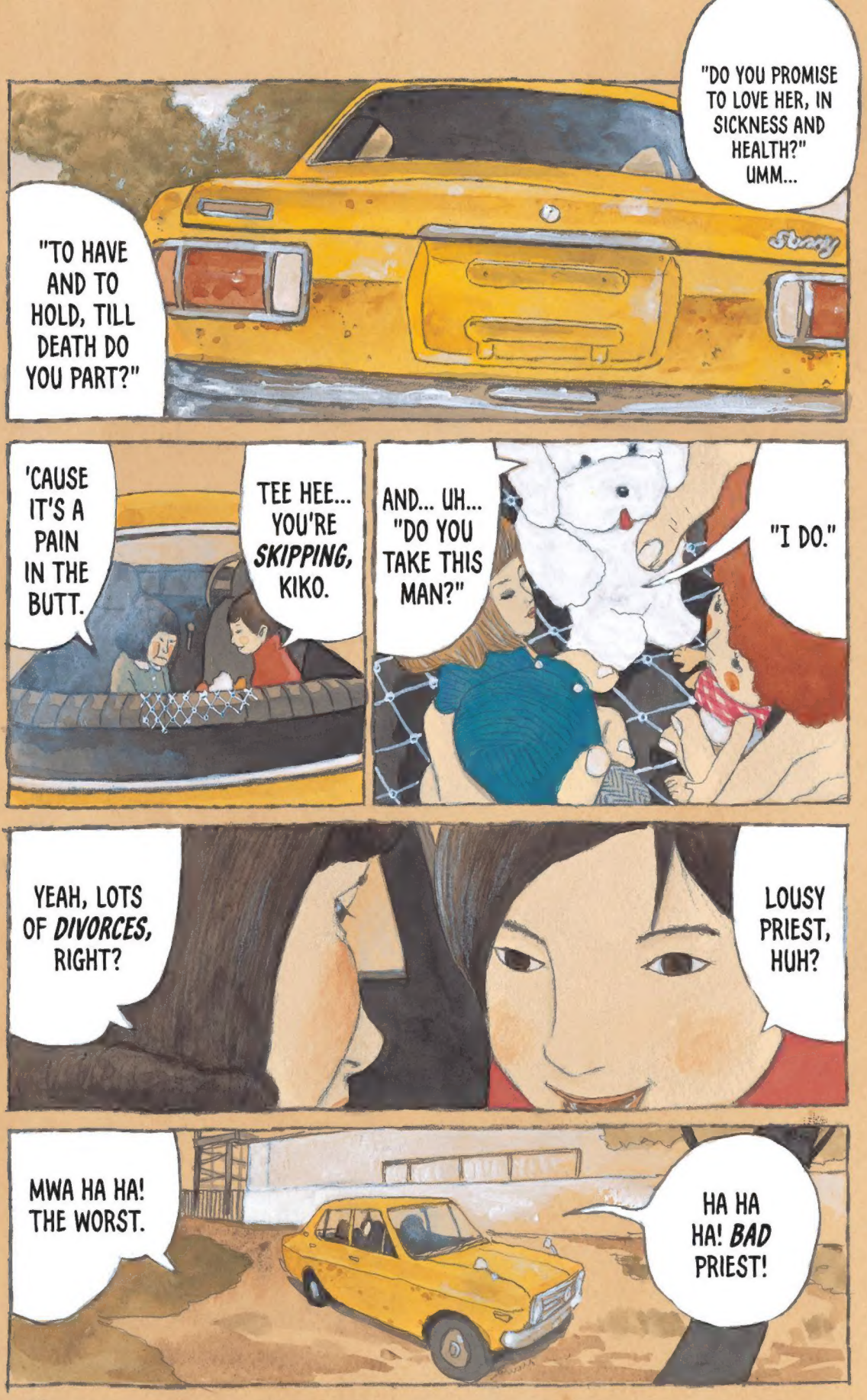
Sunny

2

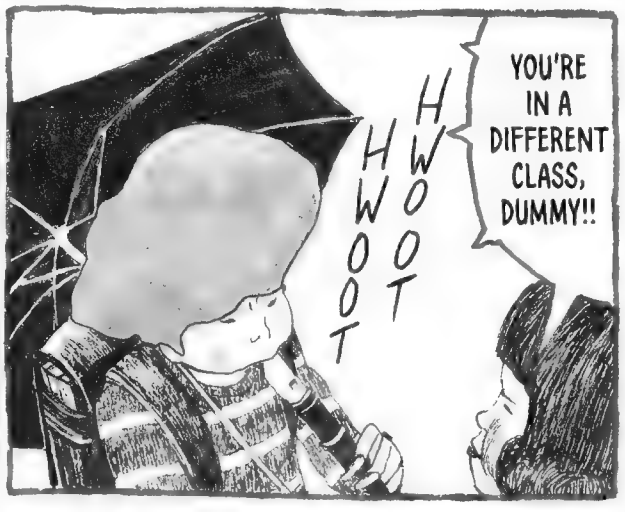
CHAPTER 7

"When
I get married
I wanna wear
a dress in a
chapel."

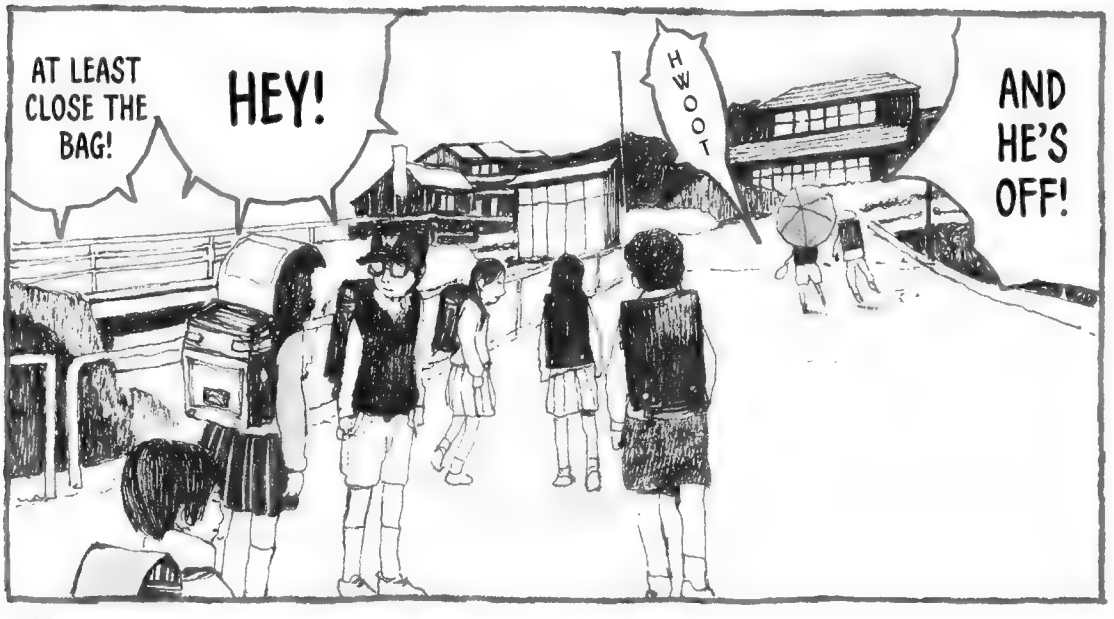
"What's a
chapel?"


"DO YOU PROMISE TO LOVE HER, IN SICKNESS AND HEALTH?" UMM...
"TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, TILL DEATH DO YOU PART?"
'CAUSE IT'S A PAIN IN THE BUTT.
TEE HEE... YOU'RE *SKIPPING*, KIKO.
AND... UH... "DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN?"
"I DO."
YEAH, LOTS OF *DIVORCES*, RIGHT?
LOUSY PRIEST, HUH?
MWA HA HA! THE WORST.
HA HA HA! *BAD* PRIEST!

SINGLE FILE, KIDS!
HWOOT HWOOOT
HWOOT
SHUT UP, ADACHI.
WHA ?!
HEY, KIKO, LEMME COPY YOUR SOCIAL STUDIES STUFF.



*Study guide: Kiko



I DIDN'T GET INVITED TO RIE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY.
HMPH
JUN MAKES ME SO MAD, SHOWING OFF LIKE THAT...
UNUK
SOMETIMES I FORGET THEY'RE *CLASSIER* THAN US FOSTER KIDS.
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT A DUMB BIRTHDAY PARTY?
...
EVEN GOT HER A PRESENT. STUPID ME...
BUT I *LIKE* GIVING PRESENTS AND ALL THAT...
"CLASSY" ...
tsk

DID I SAY SOMETHIN' WRONG?
ALWAYS FEELING SORRY FOR HERSELF.
WHY'RE YOU WALKIN' AHEAD LIKE THAT? KIKO ...
MEGUMU REALLY BUGS ME...
CAAAW
CAAAW
STUPID CROWS !!
SHUT UP!
KIKO!
HEEEY!

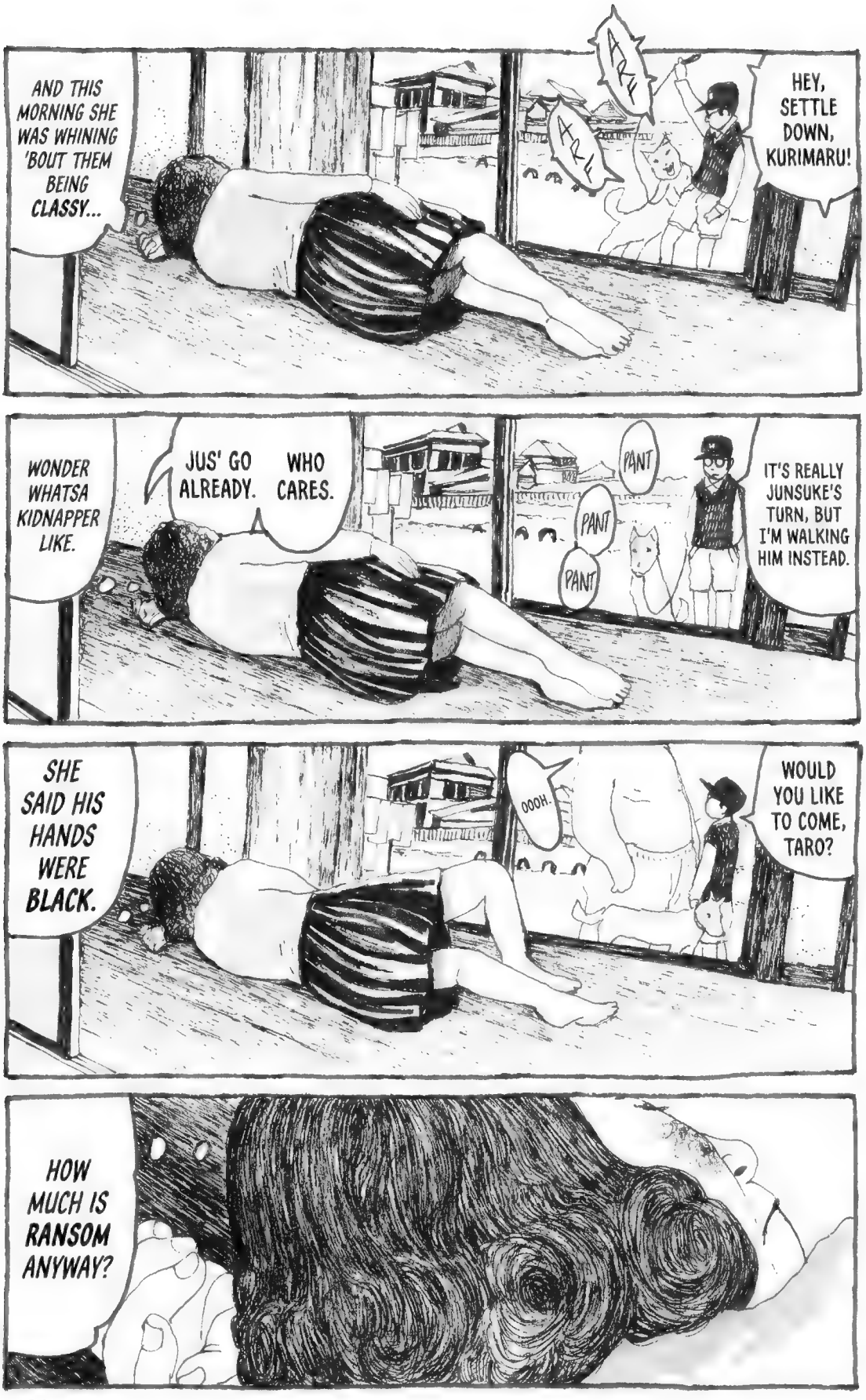
HM...
WHAT'RE THEY ALL DOIN'?
DUNNO ...
HIS HANDS WERE ALL BLACK.
HE SAID "C'MERE, SWEETIE" AND THEN HE CHASED ME.
A "SUSPICIOUS PERSON"!
WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
WHOA...

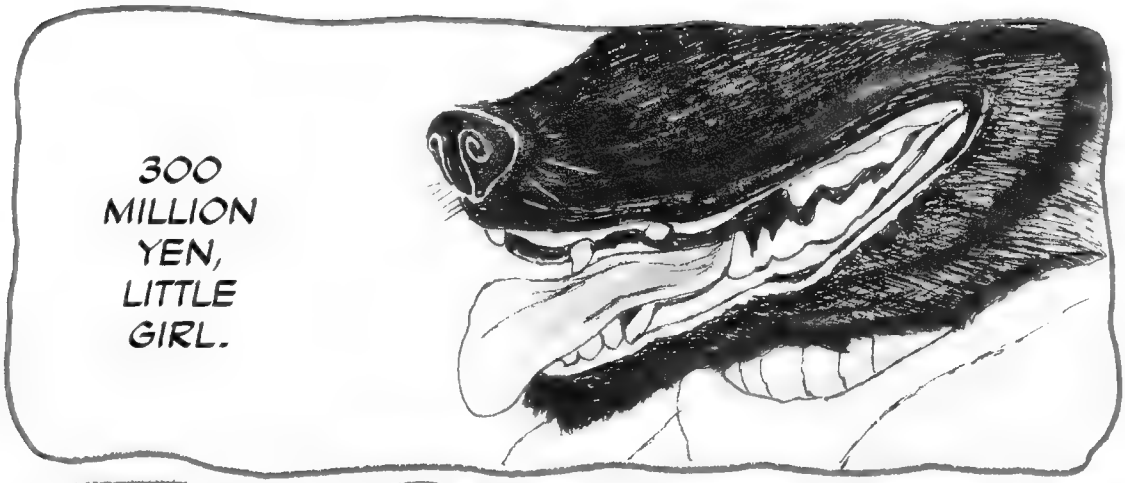
HE HAD A DIRTY GRAY HAT AND SMELLED LIKE GREASE.
"SUS-PISH-US"...
WHAT'S THAT?
HEE HEE
RAN 100 METERS IN FIVE SECONDS...
SAID HE CHASED HER...
SCARY...
THERE'S A KID-NAPPER.
YES, SIR.
REMEMBER, CHILDREN, YOU MUSTN'T TALK TO STRANGERS.

THEY JUST KEEP SAYING THE SAME STUFF OVER AND OVER.
HIS HANDS WERE ALL *BLACK* AN' HE SMELLED LIKE *GREASE*.
ZZZ
BORED OF YOUR STUPID STORY...
NO! HOW DID YOU GET AWAY?
HE LOOKED LIKE A *KILLER* WHEN HE CAME UP TO ME.

I SAID NO, HARUO!!
星の子学園
*Sign: Star Kids Home
HWOOTY HWOOT
I'M ARMED.
DON'T WORRY, ADACHI!
THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKIN' ABOUT!
I'M GONNA CATCH THE KILLER !!
NO, SHOSUKE, YOU CAN'T GO.
GOO.
HSOOL
HSOOL
HSOOL

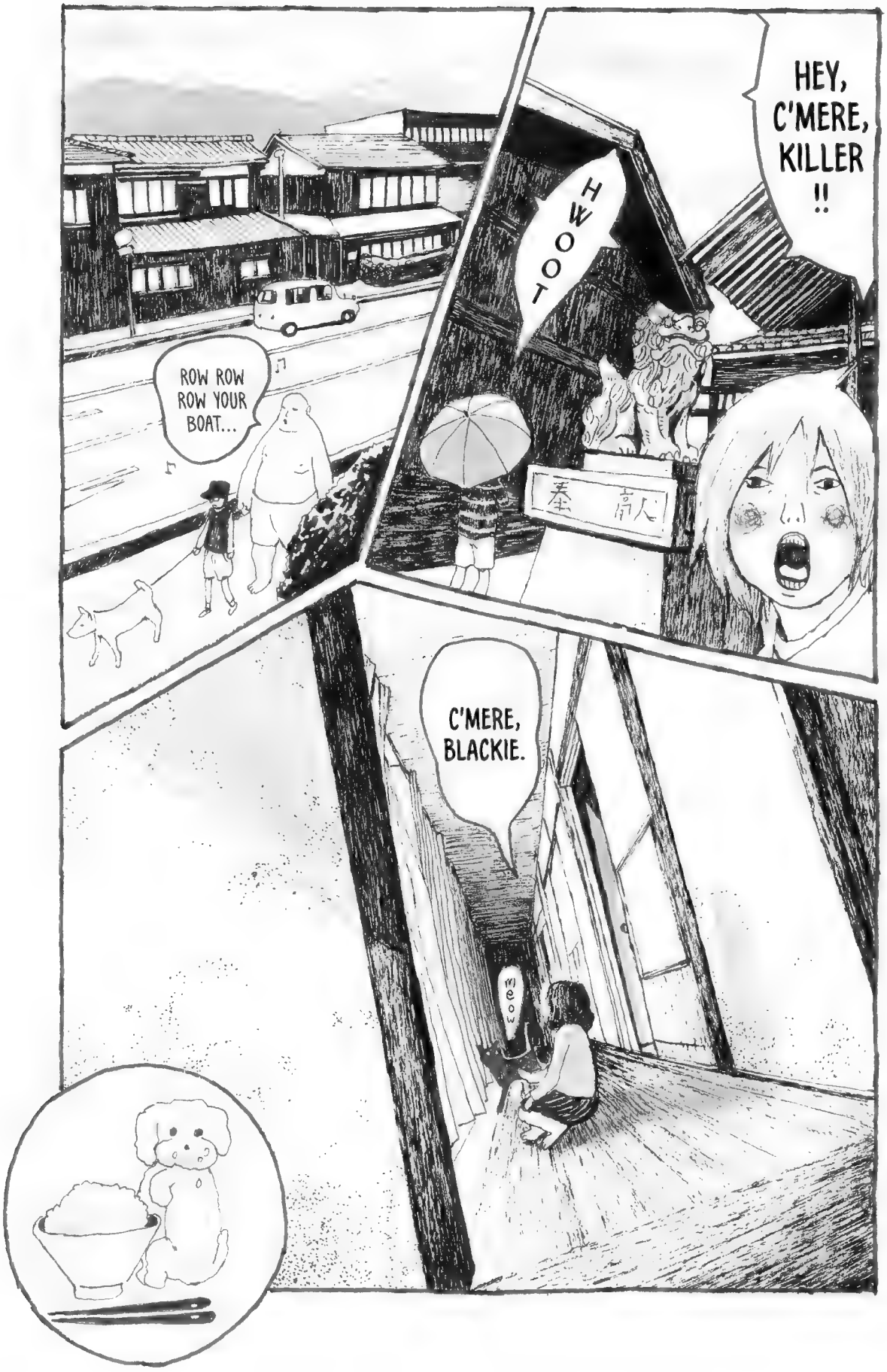
ADACHI'S SUCH A DUMMY.
GOO.
GOO.
DON'T BE FOLLOW-ING ANY STRANGERS!
OOOH.
SHE SAID SHE WAS GOING TO DO HOME-WORK AT RIE'S HOUSE.
HEY, HAVE YOU SEEN MEGUMU?
THAT'S NOT HOW KIDNAPPERS DO IT.
GAA.
SHE WENT TO HER HOUSE ANYWAY...
KIKO, YOU SHOULD QUIT LAYIN' AROUND AND DO YOURS TOO.
UH-HUH.
GOO.


AND THIS MORNING SHE WAS WHINING 'BOUT THEM BEING CLASSY...
ARU
ARU
HEY, SETTLE DOWN, KURIMARU!
WONDER WHATSA KIDNAPPER LIKE.
JUS' GO ALREADY.
WHO CARES.
PANT
PANT
PANT
IT'S REALLY JUNSUKE'S TURN, BUT I'M WALKING HIM INSTEAD.
SHE SAID HIS HANDS WERE BLACK.
OOOH.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME, TARO?
HOW MUCH IS RANSOM ANYWAY?


300 MILLION YEN, LITTLE GIRL.

300 MILLION?

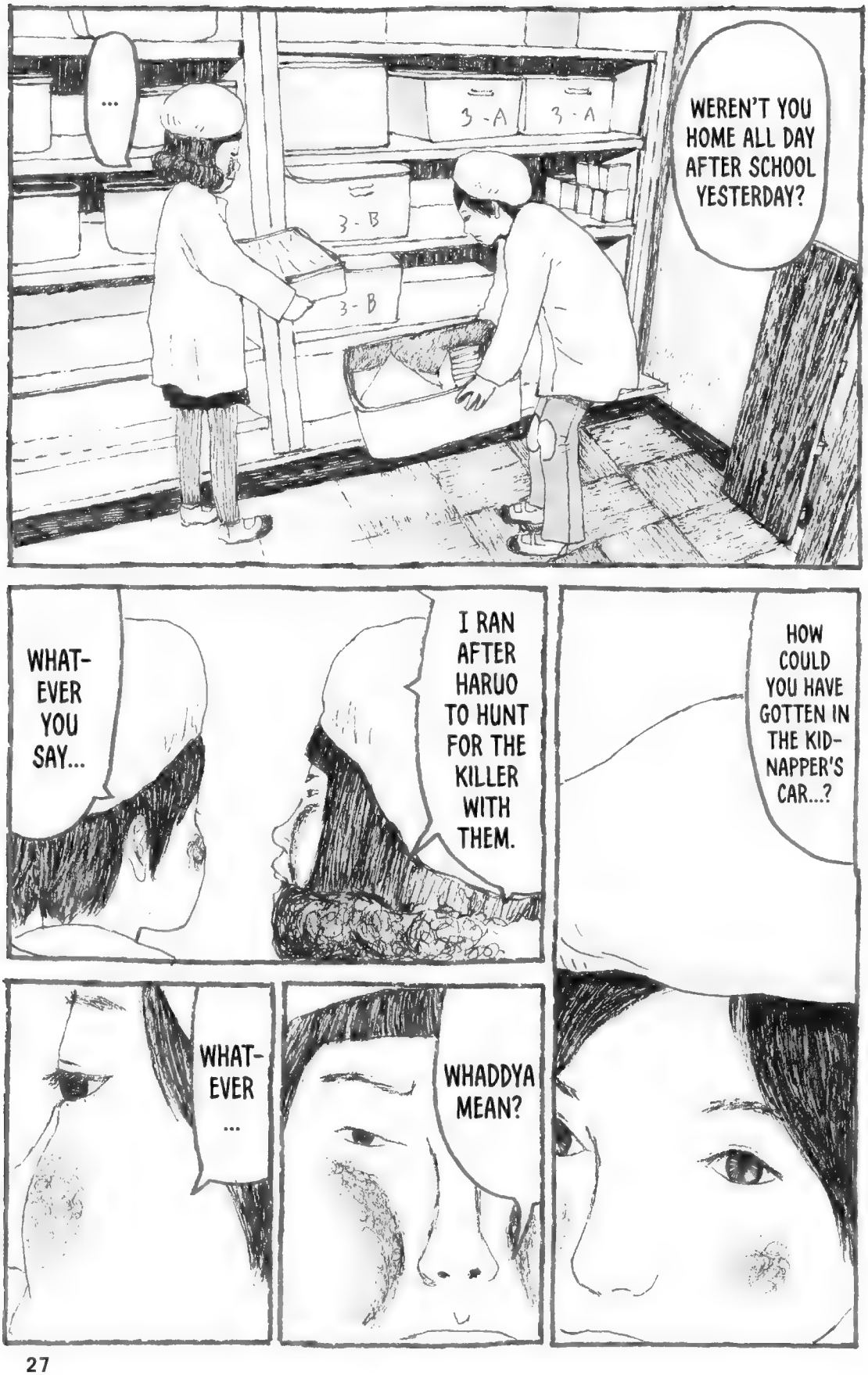
STAR KIDS HOME DOESN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY...
SNIFFLE
THAT'S THE GOING RATE FOR THIS KIND OF DEAL.

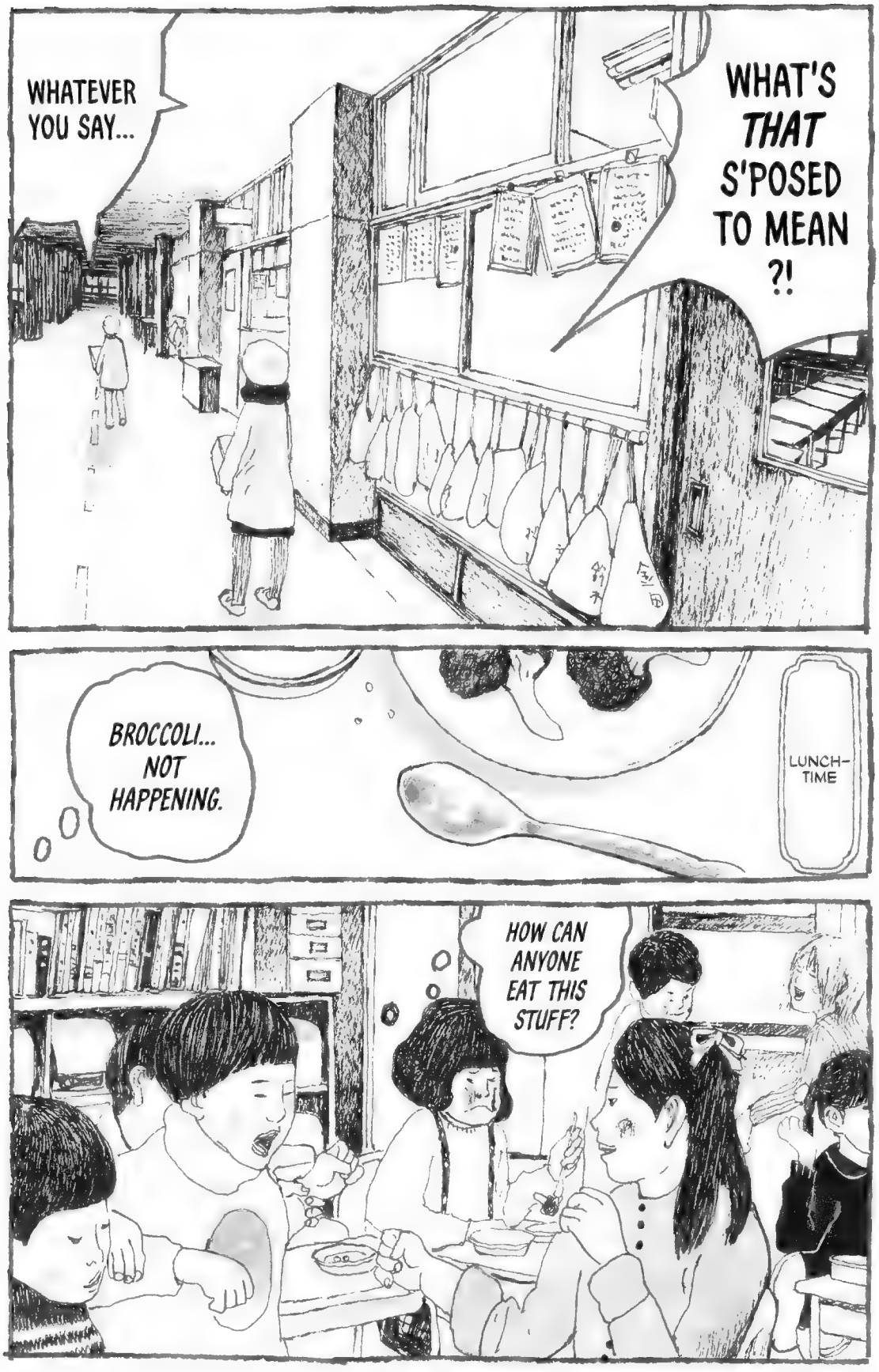

ROW ROW ROW YOUR BOAT...
HEY, C'MERE, KILLER !!
HWOOT
C'MERE, BLACKIE.
meow

INTO THE CAR.
I FOLLOWED HIM AND THEN HE PULLED ME IN.
WOW.
OUCH.
SEE ...
I STILL GOT RED MARKS WHERE HE GRABBED ME...
WOWWW
KIKO SAYS SHE GOT KIDNAPPED!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT HAPPENED?

...
I KEPT LYIN' THAT I WAS THIRSTY.
THEN I ESCAPED WHEN HE STOPPED THE CAR TO GET ME A DRINK.
REALLY ?!
I GOT REAL SCARED WHEN I LOOKED BACK, BUT THEN I JUS' LOOKED AHEAD AND KEPT RUNNING.
AMAZING.
UM... HIS EYES WERE LIKE ALL BLOODSHOT ...
SO WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
NO BIG DEAL REALLY ...
THAT WAS A REALLY SMART MOVE, KIKO.

COME BACK, LITTLE GIRL!
HEY, BACK TO YOUR SEATS, EVERYONE.
SLIDE
SHRIEK


...
3-A
3-A
3-B
3-B
WEREN'T YOU HOME ALL DAY AFTER SCHOOL YESTERDAY?
WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...
I RAN AFTER HARUO TO HUNT FOR THE KILLER WITH THEM.
HOW COULD YOU HAVE GOTTEN IN THE KID-NAPPER'S CAR...?
WHAT-EVER ...
WHADDYA MEAN?


WHATEVER YOU SAY...
WHAT'S *THAT* S'POSED TO MEAN ?!
BROCCOLI... NOT HAPPENING.
LUNCH-TIME
HOW CAN ANYONE EAT THIS STUFF?

...
THE POLICE ARE HERE...
KIKO, LEAVE YOUR LUNCH AND COME OUT HERE.
REAL COPS?! HERE?!
UH-OH...
I WANNA SEE A REAL GUN!
YOU DON'T NEED TO COME, HARUO. THIS IS SERIOUS.
DIDN'T THINK THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN ...
OH NO, THIS IS BAD.

SO, LET'S SEE, YOU ESCAPED AROUND KITAKARI?
UM... YES...
I GOT REAL SCARED AND HE STOPPED THE CAR 'CAUSE I LIED AND TOLD HIM I WAS THIRSTY.
I RAN AWAY ON THE TRAIL OVER THERE ...
...
I SEE... SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A REALLY ROUGH TIME.
UM ...
YES, SIR ...
YOU CAN GO NOW.
THANKS FOR TELLING US ABOUT IT.

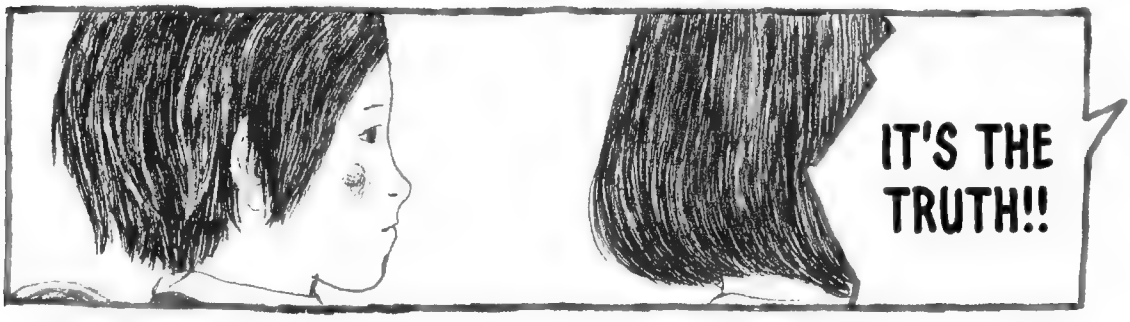
I'M ALWAYS DOING MY ROUNDS HERE, Y'KNOW.
NO PROB-LEM.
LOOKS LIKE WE CALLED YOU OUT HERE FOR NOTHING.
PHEW.
BUT I'LL CHECK AROUND, JUST TO BE SAFE.
SORRY.

YEAH, WE KNOW YOU'RE MAKING IT UP.
YOU BETTER TELL US THE TRUTH NOW!
IS THAT IT?
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME 'CAUSE I'M A FOSTER KID.
SO SAY SOME-THING!
...
HE WAS COMING BACK FOR OKUMA'S FLUTE.
HIS HANDS WERE ALL BLACK 'CAUSE HE WORKS IN THE FACTORY.
NO. IT'S 'CAUSE THE GUY KAZU SAW YESTERDAY WAS OKUMA'S DAD.

THERE WAS !!
THERE WAS A KIDNAP-PER!
YOU'RE GONNA BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF YOU DON'T FESS UP.
HOW'D YOU GET KIDNAPPED IF THE KIDNAPPER DOESN'T EVEN EXIST?!
HE PUT ME IN HIS CAR!!
...
HE HAD BLOOD-SHOT EYES!!

IT'S THE TRUTH!!
HE DROVE ME UP THE MOUNTAIN !!

EVEN IF EVERY-ONE SAYS I'M LYIN', IT'S THE TRUTH!!


IT'S THE TRUTH!!

YEAH. Y'KNOW, LYING TO THE POLICE IS CALLED *PERJURY.*
YELLING ABOUT IT ISN'T GONNA MAKE IT TRUE, LIAR.
MY DAD SAYS A *CRIMINAL RECORD* STAYS WITH YOU FOREVER.
YOU CAN NEVER MARRY ANYONE.
YOU MIGHT EVEN GO TO JAIL, Y'KNOW.
YEAH.
"PER-JORY" ?
BETTER *CONFESS* NOW.
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO COME CLEAN.
NNGH ...

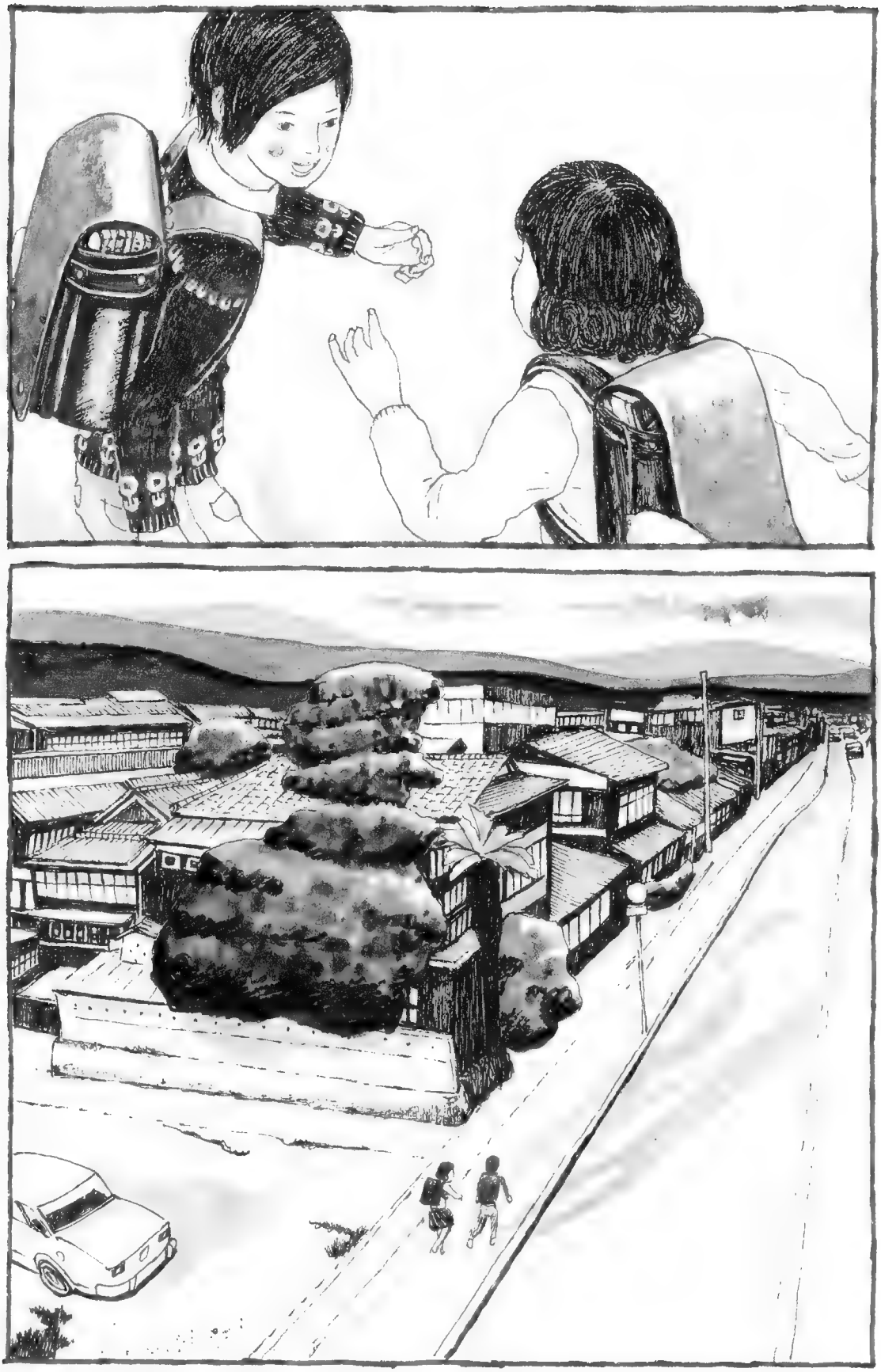
I SAW HIM TOO.
I SAW KIKO GET KIDNAPPED.

I TRIED TO STOP HIM, BUT HE PUT HER IN THE CAR AND TOOK HER AWAY.

CAW
CAW

...
YEAH ?
HEY, MEGUMU ...
AH!
WHYDJA SAY THAT?
?
HE'S COMING AFTER US AGAIN!!

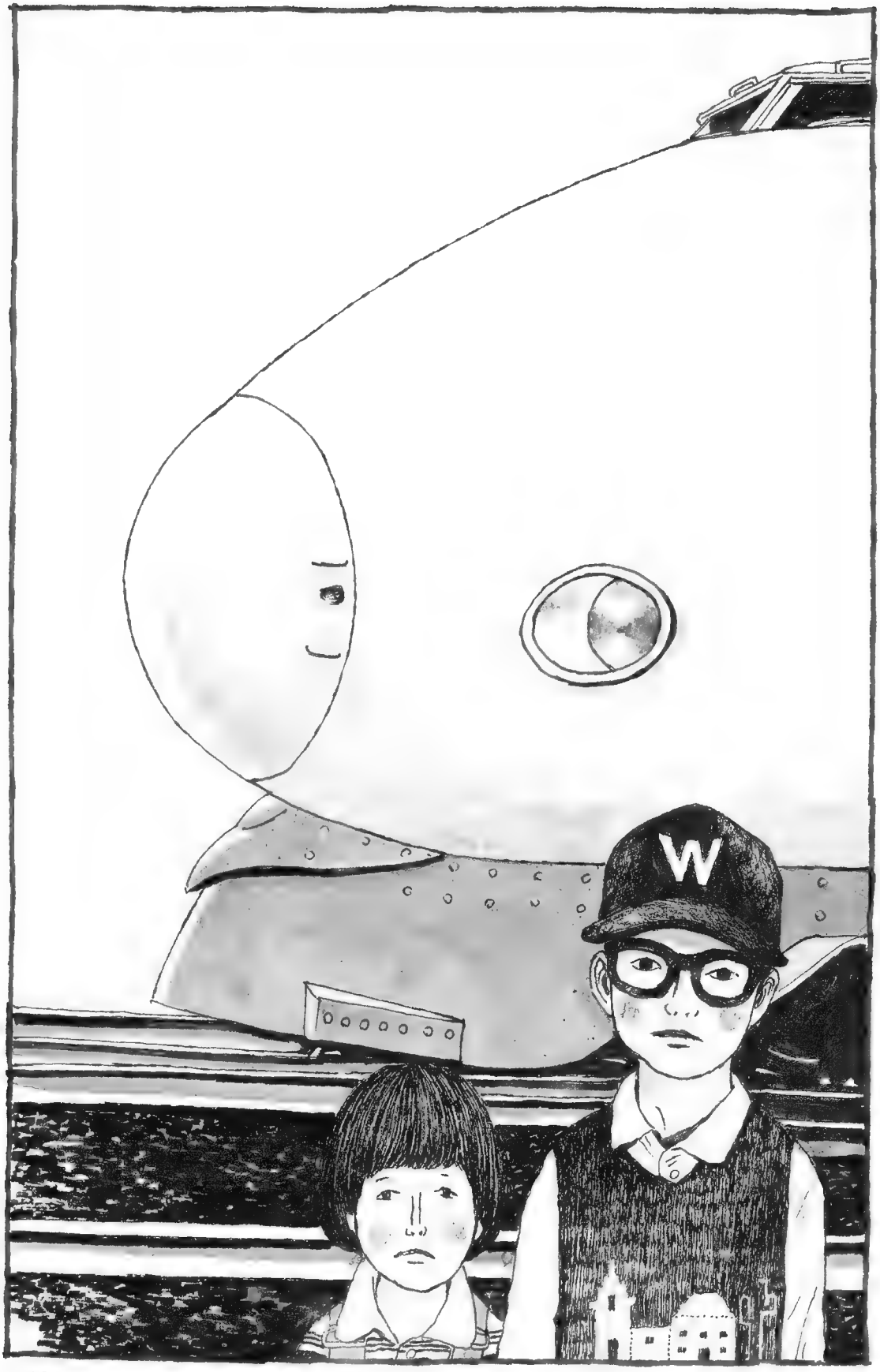
WHO'S "HE"?
KA-KUNK
KA-KUNK
HURRY UP OR HE'LL CATCH US!!
YEEEK !!
KIKO, C'MON, HURRY UP!
HE'S CATCHING UP!!
YEEEK !!
KA-KUNK
KA-KUNK



CHAPTER 8

"What's a guppy a baby of?"

"A guppy is a baby guppy."


W

THIS IS TŌRU OISHI, FIRST GRADER.
ANOTHER BOY?
HE'S MOVING HERE FROM ODAWARA BECAUSE OF A SITUATION AT HOME, AND HE'LL BE STAYING WITH US FOR A WHILE.
WHERE'S ODAWARA?
SIT UP, JUN-SUKE.
SOME-WHERE 'ROUND TOKYO?
ODA-WAWA!

NOW THEN, YOUNG TŌRU.
HOW ABOUT INTRO-DUCING YOURSELF ?
ODAWARA.
PROB'LY TAKE HIM A WHILE TO GET USED TO THINGS, SO Y'ALL BE NICE TO HIM.
YES, SIR.
YEAH, YEAH.
AAAAH
W...
...
YER GONNA SPOIL HIM, ADACHI.
WELL, WHAD-DYA EXPECT? HE JUST SAID GOODBYE TO HIS MOM AT THE STATION, Y'KNOW.
ENOUGH, HARUO, YOU'LL JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE.
...
WAAH

HM?
SOB...
SOB...
I'LL SHOW HIM AROUND, SIR.
Oh well ...
SNFF
SEI'S GONNA BE YOUR BUDDY. ISN'T THAT NICE, TŌRU?
C'MON, TŌRU.
I'M FROM YOKOHAMA.
I'M SEI YAMA-SHITA.

Row row row your boat
WE TAKE TURNS CLEANING UP, SO YOU CAN BE MY PARTNER.
WE ONLY GET TWO HOURS OF TV A WEEK, SO IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANNA WATCH...
...JUST TELL MISS MITSUKO IN THE MORNING.
PANT
HE JUST WANTS TO PLAY.
PANT
PANT
DON'T WORRY, KURIMARU DOESN'T BITE.
WAH!
ARF!
"OKAY?"
BARF.
COME WALK HIM WITH ME SOMETIME, OKAY?
ARF
Merrily merrily merrily...
THAT'S TARO.
HE LIKES TO SING.
...

ONLY HAD TWO, DUMMY.
LIAR, I SAW YOU!
Merrily ... ♪
JUNSUKE, THAT'S YOUR *THIRD* FRITTER. WE'RE ONLY S'POSED TO HAVE TWO.
YEAH, GONNA GET *EXECUTED* AN' *DIE*, STUPID.
HEY, SIT DOWN, JUNSUKE.
WHAT, IT'S ILLEGAL TO EAT FRITTERS NOW? YOU GONNA EXECUTE ME?
MISS MITSUKO SAID "ONLY TWO EACH." RIGHT?
YOU'RE *HOMOS*.
HARUO'S ALWAYS ON JUN-SUKE'S SIDE.
'CAUSE YOU GIRLS EAT SO SLOW!
SHUT UP AND EAT!
THAT'S ENOUGH!

...
WANT ME TO GET YOU SOME-THING?
WHAT'S WRONG, TŌRU?
HIS NAME'S TŌRU.
HEY, *YOU*, YOU'RE FROM ODA-WARA?
slide
LIKE *GARBAGE*. GOT IT?
YOU GOT *DUMPED*.
NNH ...
CRYIN' WON'T GET YOUR PARENTS BACK.
ALWAYS WHIMPER-ING LIKE THAT ...
HARUO.

LEAVE 'IM ALONE, HARUO.
WAAAAH...
PLAN TO SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFE IN THIS GARBAGE DUMP.
HARUO, YOU CRIED ALL THE TIME WHEN YOU GOT HERE!
WAAAAH
QUIET OVER THERE...
YOU'RE GONNA SPOIL HIM, AND THEN HE'LL NEVER STOP CRYIN'!!
STEPPING IN THE RING NOW, IT'S ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER AND THE SHEIK!*
TRYIN' TO STARVE US OR SOMETHING?
AREN'T YOU DONE EATING YET?

*Abdullah the Butcher (AKA The Madman from the Sudan) and The Sheik (not to be confused with The Iron Sheik) were two pro wrestlers popular in Japan circa 1975.

"IT'LL JUST BE FOR A LITTLE WHILE..."
SAME AS MY MOM TOLD ME.
IT'S OKAY, SHE'LL COME.
MOMMY SAID SHE'D COME GET ME WHEN SHE FINDS A NEW PLACE...
Waah
HARUO, I SAID ENOUGH!
PARENTS ALWAYS SAY THAT !!
YOUR MOMMA'S GONNA COME FOR YOU SOON, TŌRU.
AND I'M NOT GIVING UP ON HER.

WHO, THE BUTCHER?
HURRY UP!
HE LOOKS LIKE TARO, RIGHT?
IT'S THE BUTCHER!!
HE'S SHOWING OFF HIS KARATE MOVES NOW!
NOW TARO, LEAVE THE FISH ALONE.
HEY!
TARO'S PRETTY STRONG, HE MIGHT MAKE A GOOD WRESTLER.
MISS MITSUKO! TARO'S IN THE FISH-POND AGAIN!
PANT
PANT
DON'T MAKE HIM THINK LIFE'S SO ROUGH.
HNN.

YEAH?
HEY, THERE Y'ARE, SEI!
YAY!
UM, I WANTCHA TO DO MY MATH HOMEWORK. ♡
WHAT PART?
ALL THIS STUFF.
GEEZ ...

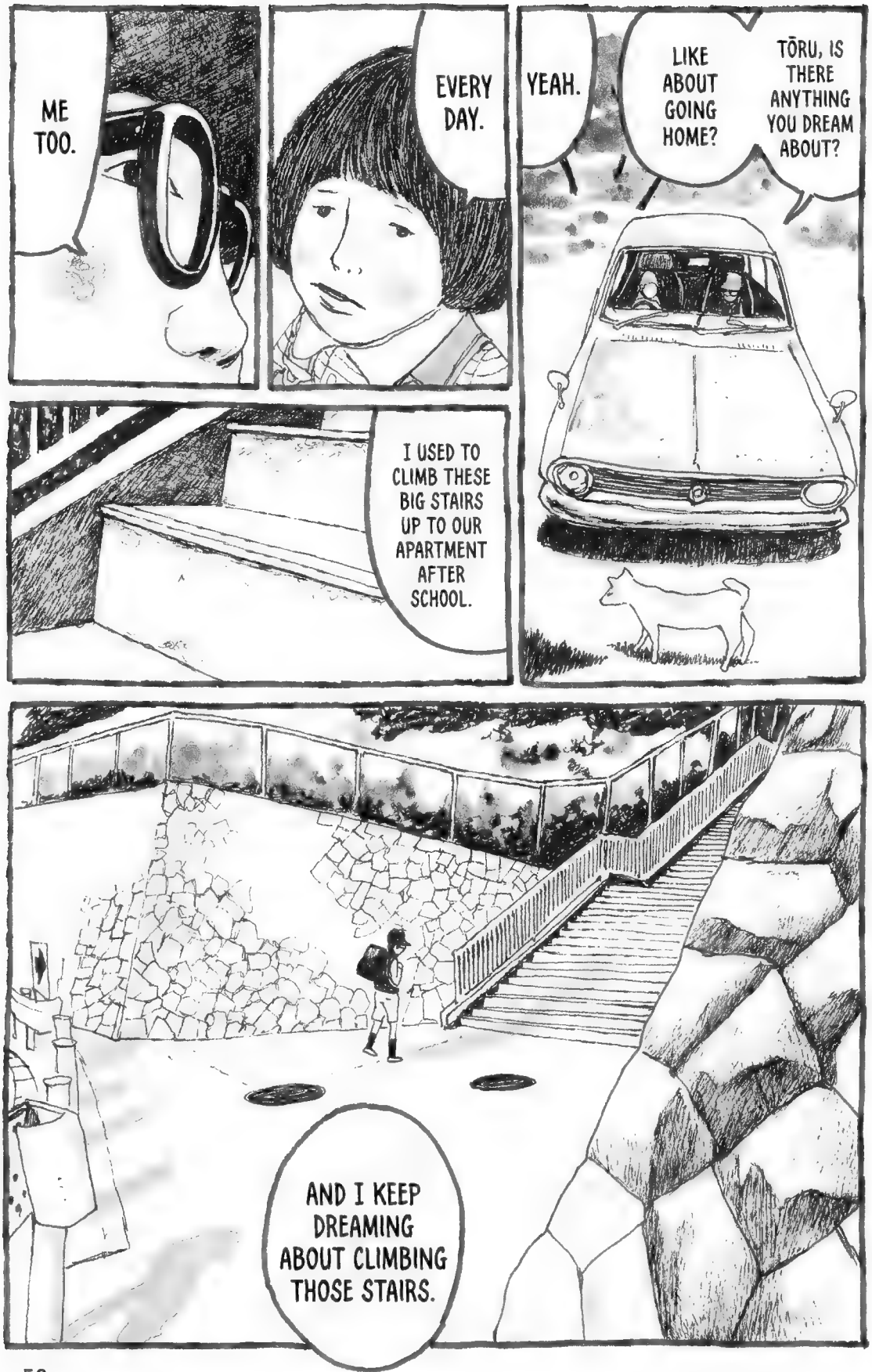
NEVER GONNA ASK YOU AGAIN.
FINE, BUT ERASE THAT STUFF FIRST.
JUS' HELP ME OUT, WILLYA?
AND YOUR FINGER-NAILS ARE SO LONG ...
YOUR NOTE-BOOK'S A MESS.
GRAB
!
JUN ALWAYS ACTS TOUGH AROUND SEI.
DON'T CARE ANYWAY...
I *SAY* IT'S ALL *SEI'S* FAULT. (DA-DUN TSS!)
...

ALL 'CAUSE OF SEI.
THIS SUCKS.
THAT'S THE SUNNY.
IT DOESN'T RUN ANYMORE THOUGH...
!
SHUFF

HEEEY! I ERASED EVERY-THING!!
WANNA GET IN?
KA-CHUNK
CAN I?
HUH ?
WHERE'D SEI GO?
I DUN-NO.
レーシング
NO GROWN-UPS ALLOWED. THAT'S THE RULE.
THIS PLACE IS JUST FOR KIDS.
PANT
PANT
PANT

YEAH.
EVEN YOU?
EVERYONE COMES HERE WHEN THEY FEEL SAD.
Y'KNOW, WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE HOME I WAS ALWAYS CRYING.
BUT, LITTLE BY LITTLE, YOU GET USED TO BEING SAD.
Sammy

I THINK AFTER A WHILE YOUR HEART DOESN'T HURT SO BAD ANY-MORE.
YOU'RE NOT S'POSED TO LOOK AT THE ANSWERS, Y'KNOW...
SHUT UP. I *SAY* IT'S *SEI'S* FAULT.
IT JUST SPREADS OUT FROM YOUR HEART TO YOUR WHOLE BODY...
KENJI, HELP ME BRING IN THE LAUNDRY, WILLYA?
YEAH, OKAY.
IT'S LIKE I'M TURNING INTO SOMEONE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE.

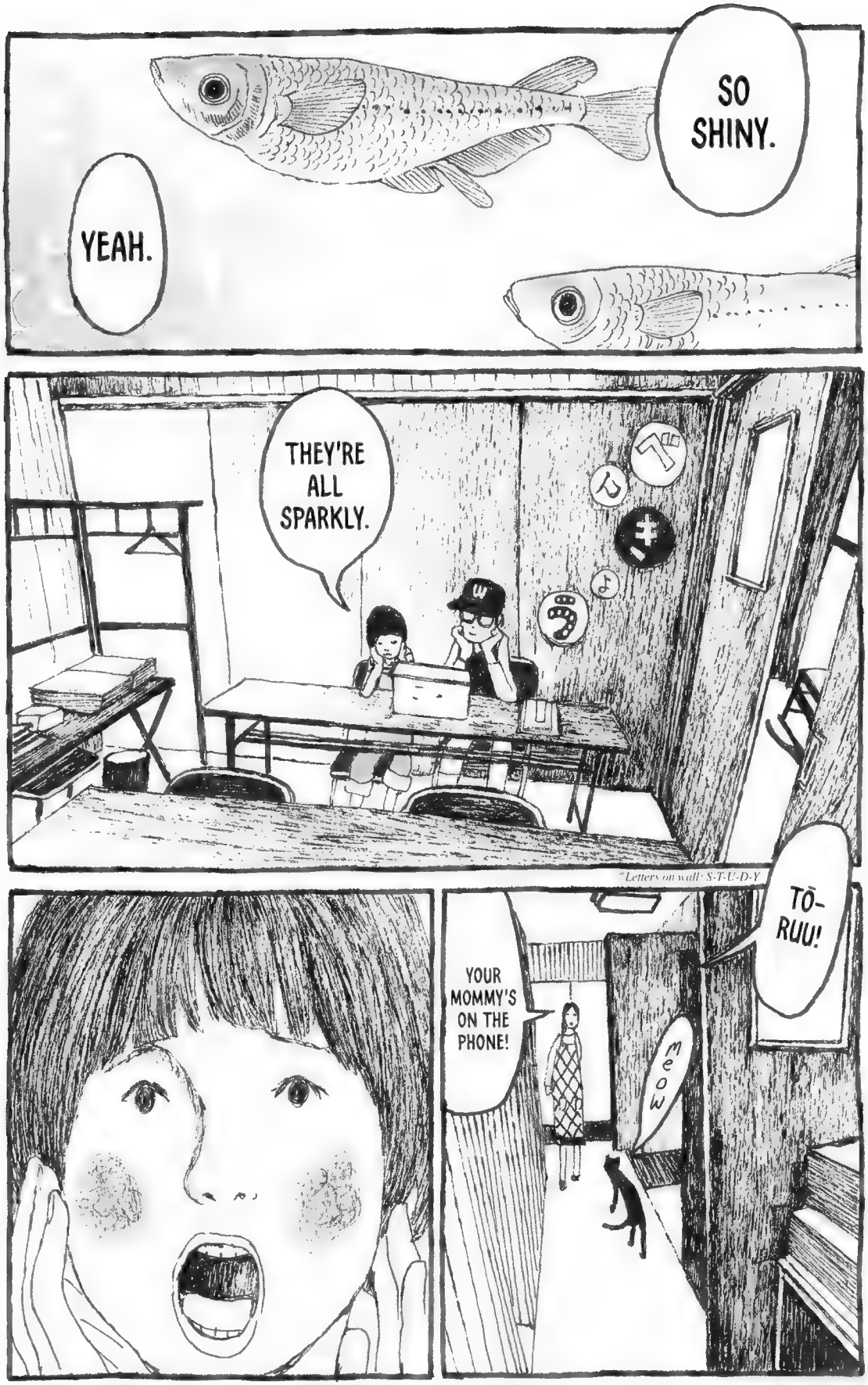

ME TOO.
EVERY DAY.
I USED TO CLIMB THESE BIG STAIRS UP TO OUR APARTMENT AFTER SCHOOL.
YEAH.
LIKE ABOUT GOING HOME?
TŌRU, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU DREAM ABOUT?
AND I KEEP DREAMING ABOUT CLIMBING THOSE STAIRS.

AND THEN I SIT DOWN AND JUST WAIT UNTIL I WAKE UP.
HERE WE GO AGAIN...
BUT LATELY, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STAIRS, I REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENING...
UH-HUH.
JUST SIT THERE WAITING FOR MR. ADACHI OR MISS MITSUKO TO COME WAKE ME UP.
WAH!
ARF

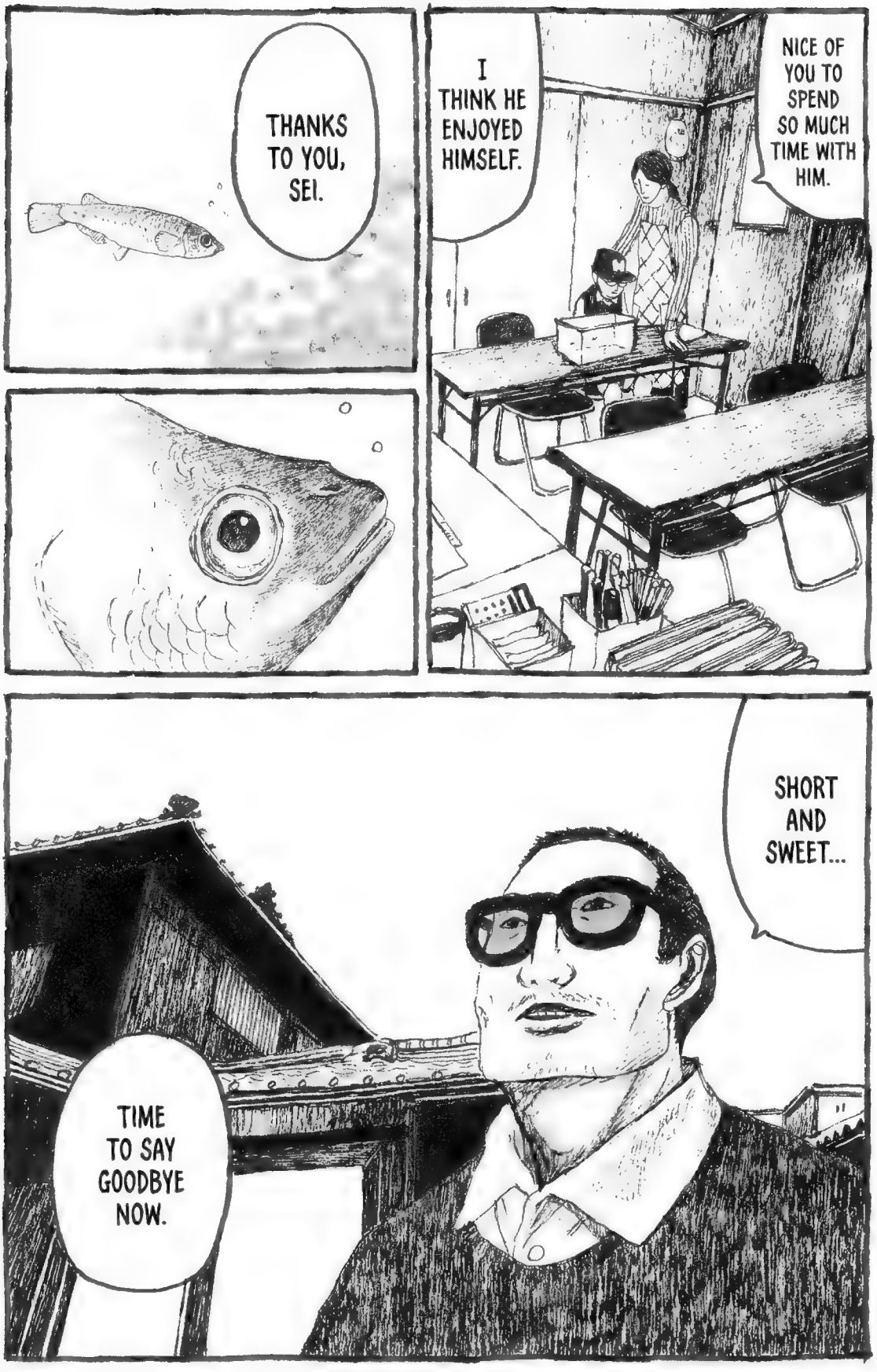
PANT
PANT
PANT
GO AHEAD AND PET HIM. SEE?
YEAH.
PANT
HE'S REALLY FURRY.
TSK.
STILL SAYIN' THAT.
ARF
WAH!
WALK HIM WITH ME NEXT TIME, OKAY?

HOME AGAIN!
星の子学園
WHERE'S SEI?
ISN'T HE IN THE STUDY ROOM?
DIDJA SHUT THE DOOR, TŌRU?
RRRING
LOOK, ME AND KOJI CAUGHT SOME GUPPIES.
RRRING
WOW. BETCHA CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW SEI.
SEI...!
RRRING
HEY, TŌRU, SHUT THE DOOR, WILLYA?
YES.
THIS IS THE STAR KIDS HOME.

LITTLE TŌRU'S MOTHER.
OH...
wow der
HEH HEH HEH.


SO SHINY.
YEAH.
THEY'RE ALL SPARKLY.
*Letters on wall: S-T-U-D-Y
TŌ-RUU!
YOUR MOMMY'S ON THE PHONE!
meow

MOM !!
HIS MOTHER'S PICKING HIM UP NEXT WEEK.
TŌRU'S GOING HOME.
tromp tromp tromp
WHAT'S GOING ON?
BAM
AREN'T YOU ALL EXCITED ?

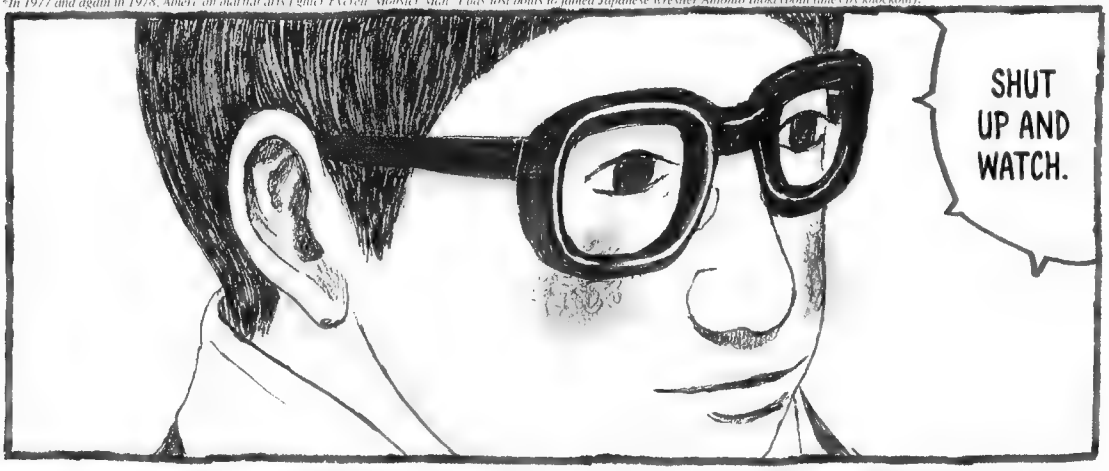

THANKS TO YOU, SEI.
I THINK HE ENJOYED HIMSELF.
NICE OF YOU TO SPEND SO MUCH TIME WITH HIM.
SHORT AND SWEET...
TIME TO SAY GOODBYE NOW.

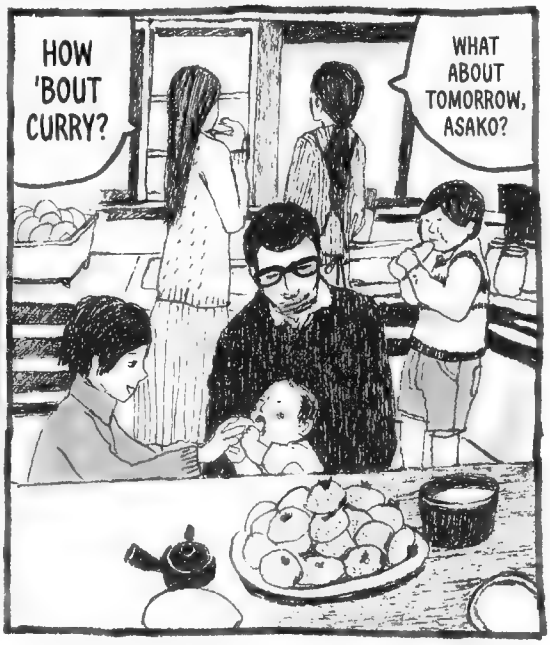
SO SAY GOODBYE LIKE A GOOD BOY.
TŌRU, THESE NICE FOLKS LOOKED AFTER YOU...
HARUO, DON'T SAY THAT.
COME BACK AND I'LL MAKE YOU CRY AGAIN, ODAWARA.
YOU'RE NEARBY, SO COME AND PLAY ANYTIME.
SAY "THANK YOU."
THANK YOU.
GOOD FOR YOU, TŌRU!
Uhhh
clo-ver.
星の家
'KAY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE GUPPIES.

AGAIN...
FRITTERS TONIGHT.
HEY, MISS MITSUKO, WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

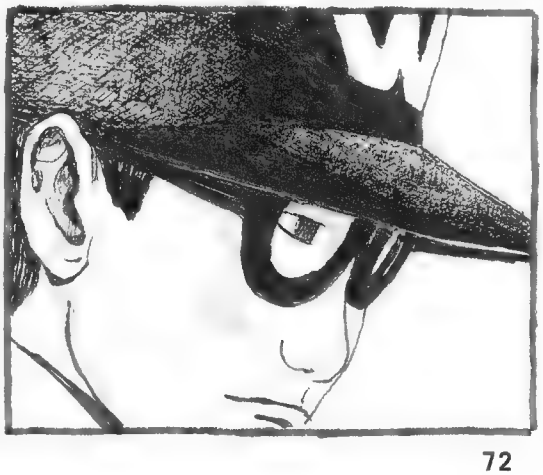
DINNER-TIME!
HURRY UP, SEI.
I'M COM-ING.
YEAH.
星の子学園

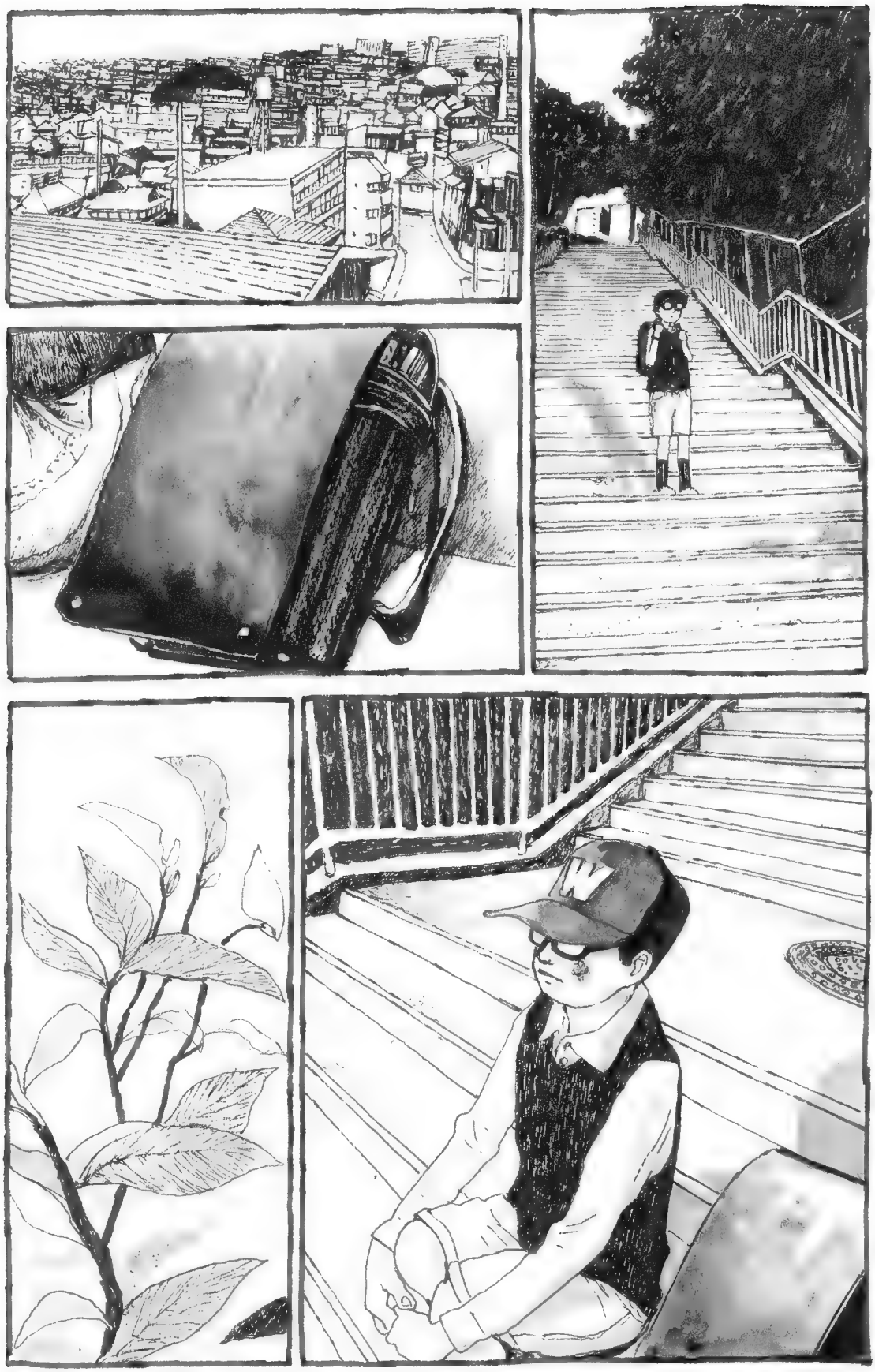
*In 1977 and again in 1978, American martial arts fighter Everett "Monster Man" Eddy lost bouts to famed Japanese wrestler Antonio Inoki (both times by knockout).





+"Frog's Chorus": Popular children's song adapted from the German folksong "Der Froschgesang"





CHAPTER 9

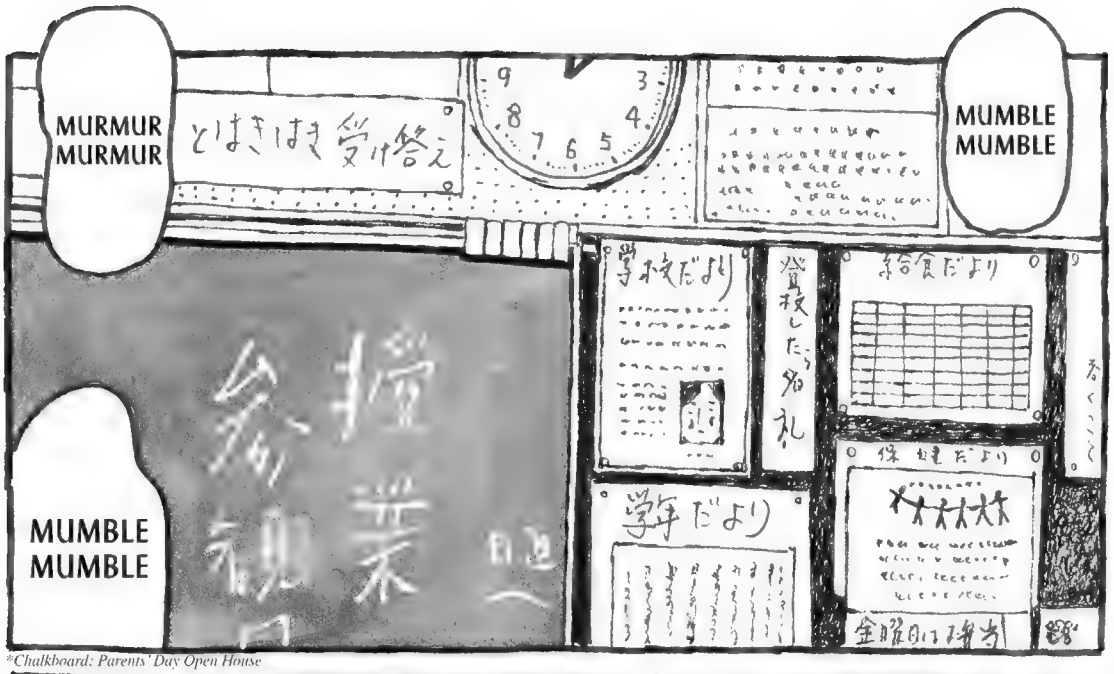
"The sun is great! It comes back every morning."

"The earth's goin' around it, y'know."

Shosuke

ARF
ARF
AWH.
ARF
HEY, TARO, WOULDYA HELP ME HANG OUT THE FUTONS?
BWUB-BLES.
ARF
ARF

I NEED A HAND SINCE MINORU'S GONE TO SCHOOL TODAY.
GOO.
UHHH.
UHHH.
星の子学園
YOU CAN HAVE A POPSICLE WHEN WE'RE DONE.
ARF
BWUB-BLES.
UHHH.
THANKS, TARO.
GOOO.



*Chalkboard: Parents' Day Open House

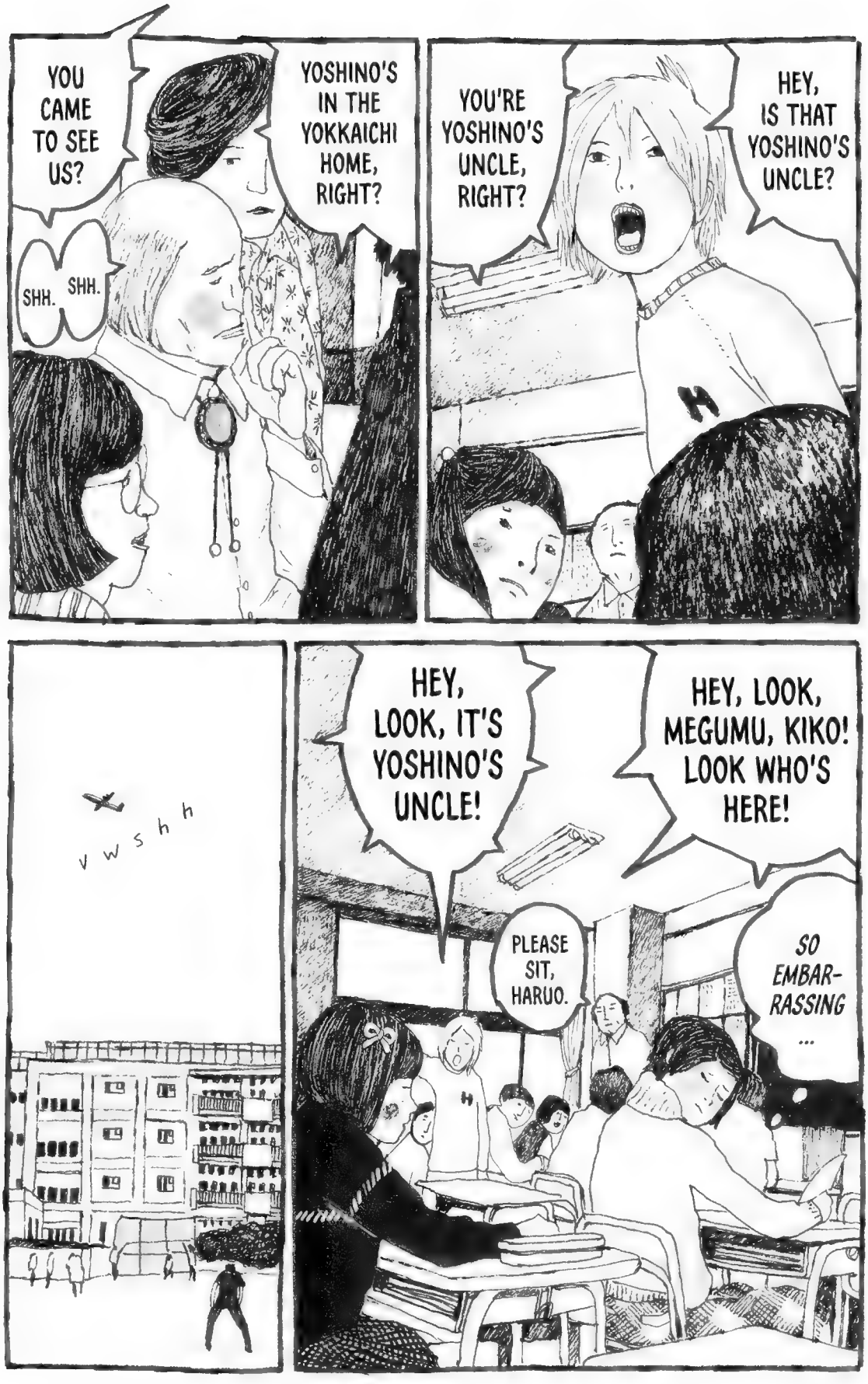
SHE CAN'T 'CAUSE SHE'S WATCHING THE LITTLE KIDS.
FACE FOR-WARD.
HEY.
MEGUMU, IS MISS MITSUKO COMING FROM YOUR PLACE?
HEY, ISN'T THAT MAMI'S MOM?

MURMUR MURMUR
MUMBLE MUMBLE
YEAH. NOT BAD, I GUESS.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, MAKIO... IS COLLEGE GOING WELL?
NOT AT ALL.
MR. YOSHINO, MS. TAKADA, THANKS FOR COMING. I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY.
WE HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO TODAY ...
YUP.

YOU TOO, MAKIO. THANKS FOR COMING.
THE KIDS ARE SO EXCITED.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SOME OF THEM DON'T LIKE PARENTS' DAY, Y'KNOW.
I'LL START WITH KOJI AND THE FOURTH GRADERS, SO MAKIO, CAN YOU START WITH THE FIRST GRADERS?
MR. YOSHINO, YOU TWO START WITH HARUO AND THE THIRD GRADERS.
B B B B O I O N N N G G G
あさひ小学校 父兄入口
MEEE!
ME! ME!

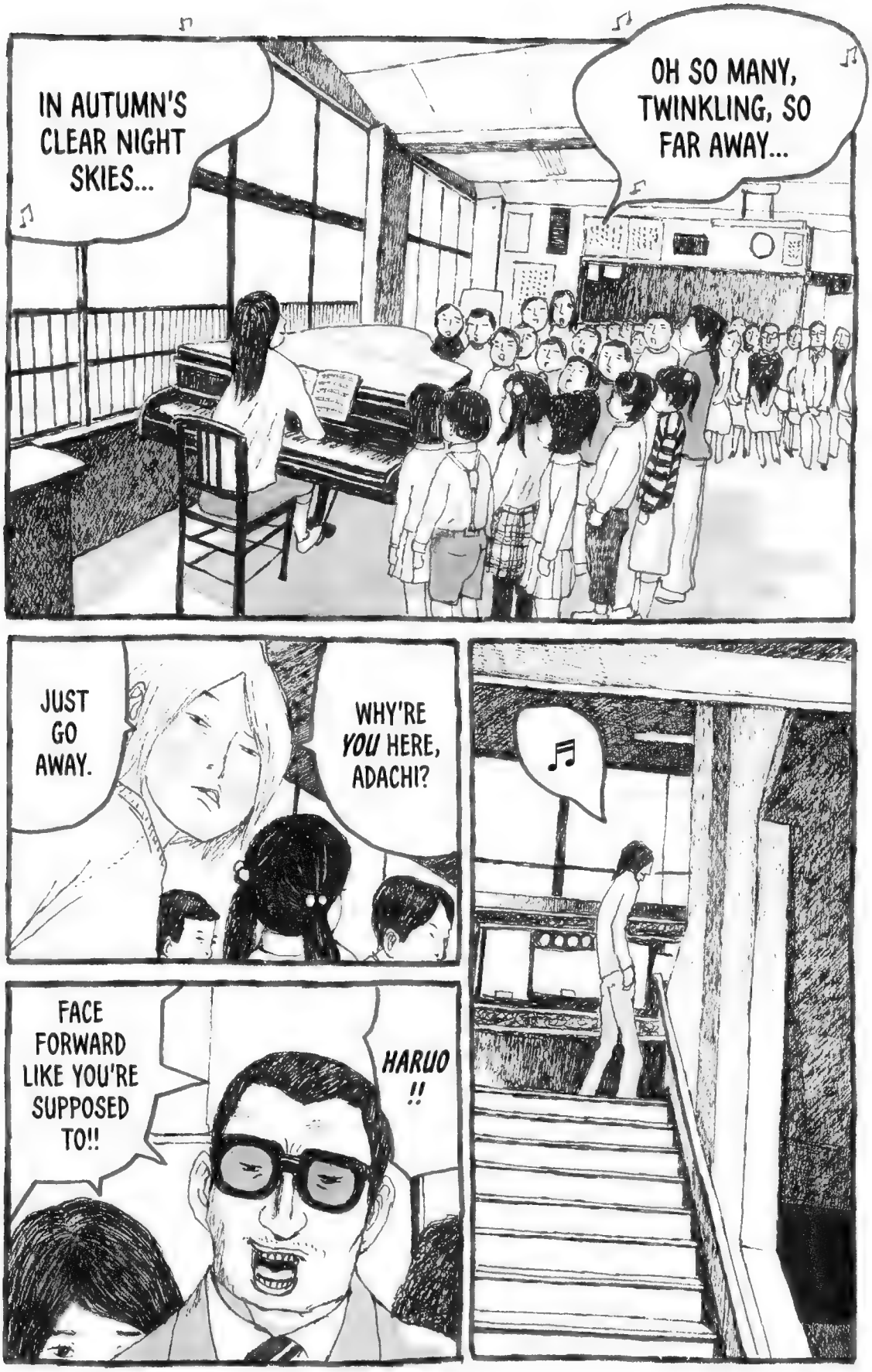
*Sign: Asahi Grade School, Parents' Entrance

ME, SIR!
...
?
THEN THERE'S NO REASON TO RAISE YOUR HAND.
KLUNK
NO, 'CAUSE I'M ALWAYS IN STUDY HALL.
WHAT, HARUO, YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS ONE?
OH.
HA HA HA HA
IDIOT ...


YOU CAME TO SEE US?
YOSHINO'S IN THE YOKKAICHI HOME, RIGHT?
SHH.
SHH.
YOU'RE YOSHINO'S UNCLE, RIGHT?
HEY, IS THAT YOSHINO'S UNCLE?
vwshh
HEY, LOOK, IT'S YOSHINO'S UNCLE!
HEY, LOOK, MEGUMU, KIKO! LOOK WHO'S HERE!
PLEASE SIT, HARUO.
SO EMBAR-RASSING ...

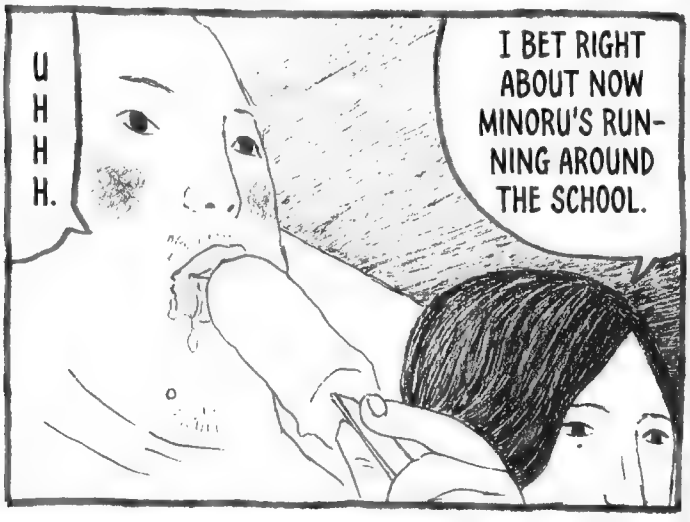
INCON-
VENIENT.
...GEOGRAPHY HAS MANY MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, IT IS IN... IN...
J...JAPAN, THOUGH A SMALL C... COUNTRY, HAS MANY DI...DI...
DIA-
LECTS.
...DIALECTS IN ITS R... REGIONS. BECAUSE JAPAN'S GE... GE...
GEOG-
RAPHY.
...
...INCONVE-
NIENT FOR TRAVEL AND, IN OLDEN TIMES, THERE WERE...
♪ LIGHT FROM THE STARS SHINING IN THE NIGHT SKY* ♫

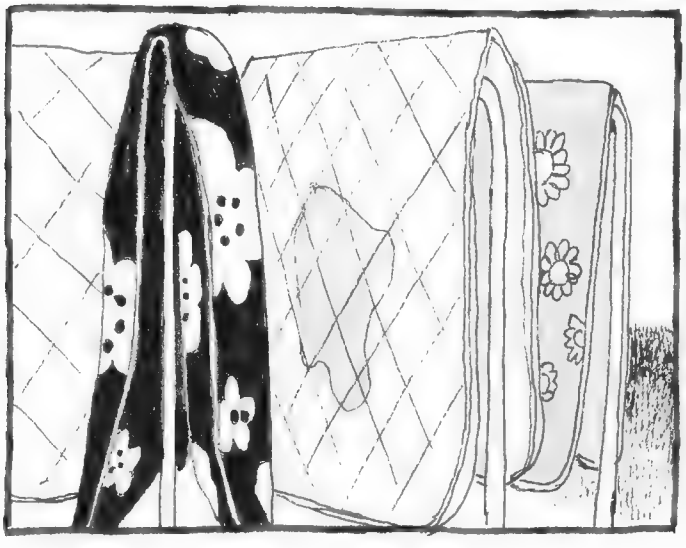
*"Hoshi No Sekai" ("World of Stars"), a children's song with lyrics by Ryūkō Kawaji set to the music of Charles Crozat Converse's hymn "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"


IN AUTUMN'S CLEAR NIGHT SKIES...
OH SO MANY, TWINKLING, SO FAR AWAY...
JUST GO AWAY.
WHY'RE *YOU* HERE, ADACHI?
FACE FORWARD LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO!!
HARUO !!

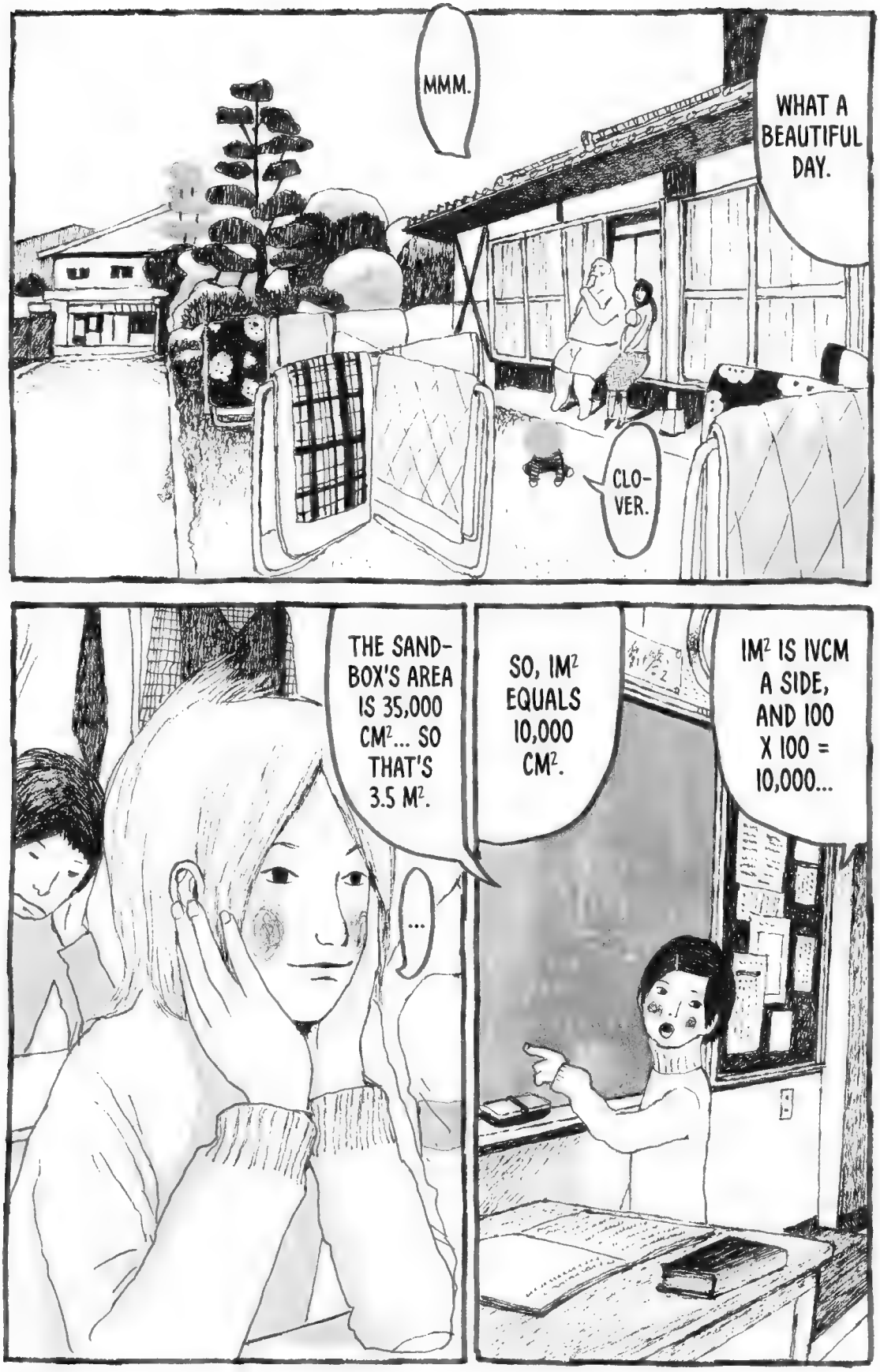
IT'S MAKIO !!
HEY!
MR. ADA-CHI.
THIS ISN'T JUST *YOUR* CLASS-ROOM !!
GO ON ALREADY.
GET LOST, ADACHI.
SURE.
MAKIO, TAKE OVER FOR ME HERE. I HAVE TO RUN OVER TO FIRST GRADE.
I'M RIGHT HERE. NOW LOOK UP AT THE FRONT.
HARUO, YOU IDIOT...
DON'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE!
MAKIO, JUST STAY HERE, OKAY?

WHERE'S FIRST GRADE?


UHHH.
I BET RIGHT ABOUT NOW MINORU'S RUNNING AROUND THE SCHOOL.



星の子学
ARF


MMM.
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY.
CLO-VER.
THE SAND-BOX'S AREA IS 35,000 CM². SO THAT'S 3.5 M².
...
SO, 1M² EQUALS 10,000 CM².
1M² IS 1M CM A SIDE, AND 100 X 100 = 10,000...

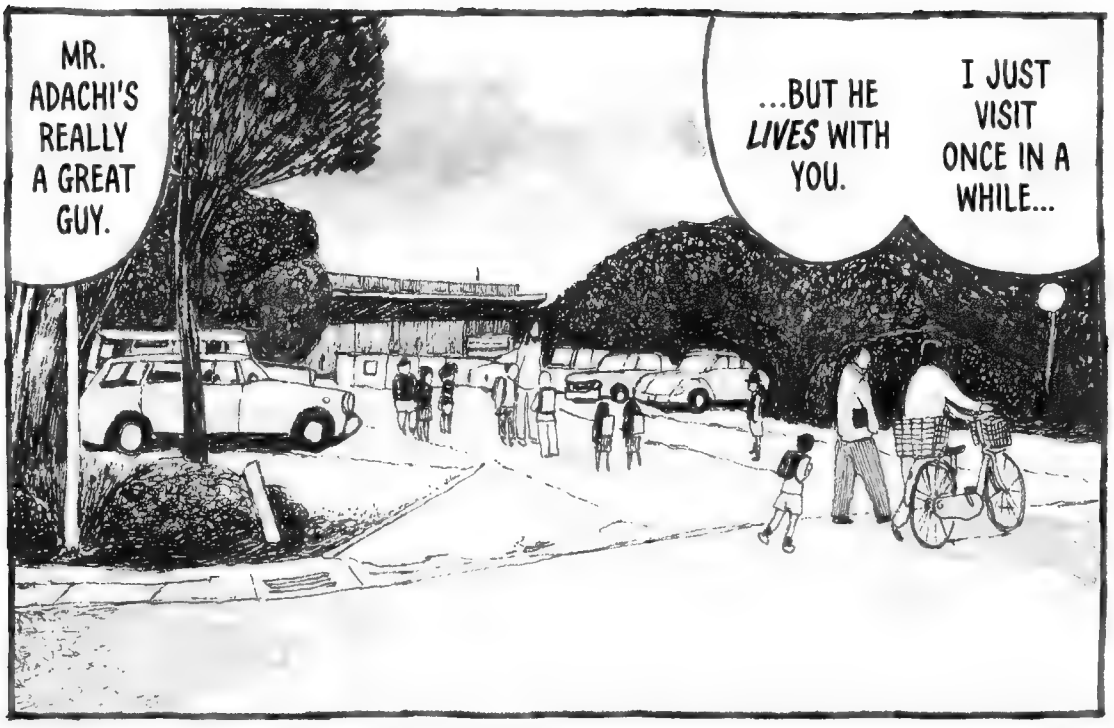
SO CAN ANYONE HERE READ ALL THESE KANJI?
ALL RIGHT THEN, SEI. COME UP FRONT AND WRITE THEM FOR US.
YES, SIR.
YAY YAY
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
KIDS, PARENTS, LET'S TRY THE STRING TELEPHONE TOGETHER.

HELLO THERE...
CAN YA HEAR ME?
CAN'T HEAR YA TOO WELL, YURI.
HEYYY.
HELLO, MR. ADACHI.
MY EAR TICKLES.
HA HA HA ...
BONG
BING
BONG
BING

MR. ADACHI SAID I SHOULD TAKE THE HATSUKARI ROUTE...
YEAH.
HOOEY
HOOEY
HOOEY
DRIVING BACK?
IT'S A BIG PLACE WITH ABOUT TEN STAFF MEMBERS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
ARE Y'ALL AT THE YOKKAICHI HOME THESE DAYS?
WELL ...
THAT'S JUST LIKE ADACHI.
WON'T YOU COME TOO?
SHUT UP, STUPID !!
LIKE A BIG FAMILY.
BUT, REALLY, STAR KIDS HOME IS SO NICE.
HOOEY HOOEY

SAY "HI" TO THE HOUSEMASTER AND MISS MITSUKO.
OKAY.
BYE-BYE!
HEY, MAKIO, CAN I RIDE WITH YOU? CAN I PLEEEZ?
HM?
I WANNA RIDE WITH MAKIO!
I'LL ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS YOU FOR IT.
HARUO, YOU'RE RIDING WITH MR. ADACHI TODAY.

THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT.
YOU TOLD HIM TO "GET LOST" AND "GO AWAY" EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAAA?!
EVEN IF YOU WERE KIDDING...
BUT I WAS JUS' KIDDING!
SCHEDULING, RUNNING AROUND ALL DAY...
...SO YOU'D HAVE SOMEONE WITH YOU IN EVERY CLASS.
MR. ADACHI WORKED REALLY HARD TO MAKE TODAY FUN FOR YOU KIDS.


MR. ADACHI'S REALLY A GREAT GUY.
I JUST VISIT ONCE IN A WHILE...
...BUT HE *LIVES* WITH YOU.

SO ON THE RIDE BACK, YOU'RE GONNA SIT NEXT TO HIM AND THANK HIM.
...

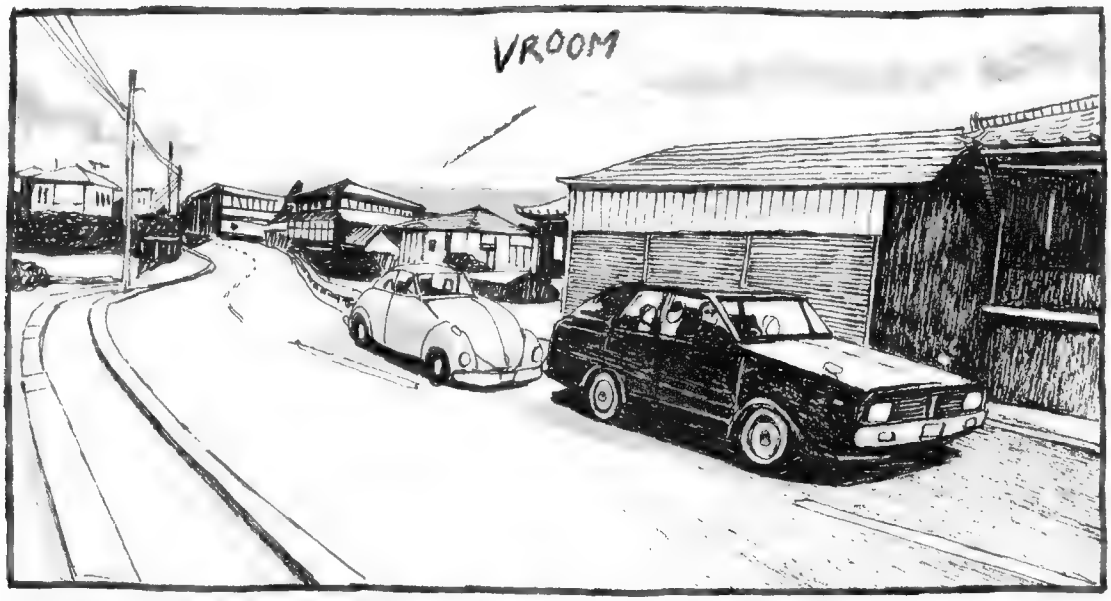
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF SOMEONE TOLD YOU THAT?
AND YOU TOLD HIM TO "GET LOST" AND "GO AWAY"
...

YES WAY.
NO WAY!

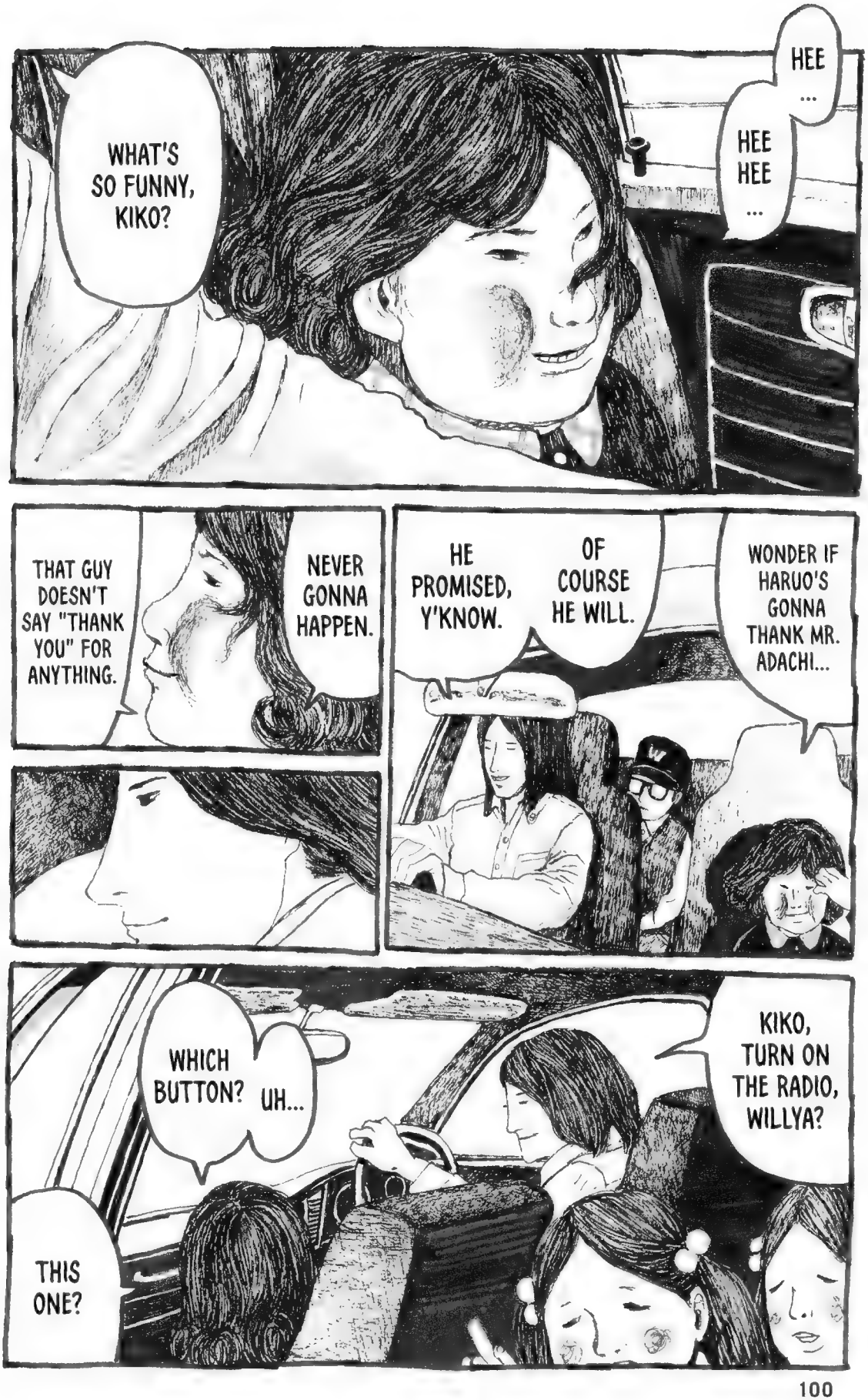
PROMISE, HARUO.
YOU'RE GONNA SAY "THANK YOU."
BUSTED ...
TEE HEE...

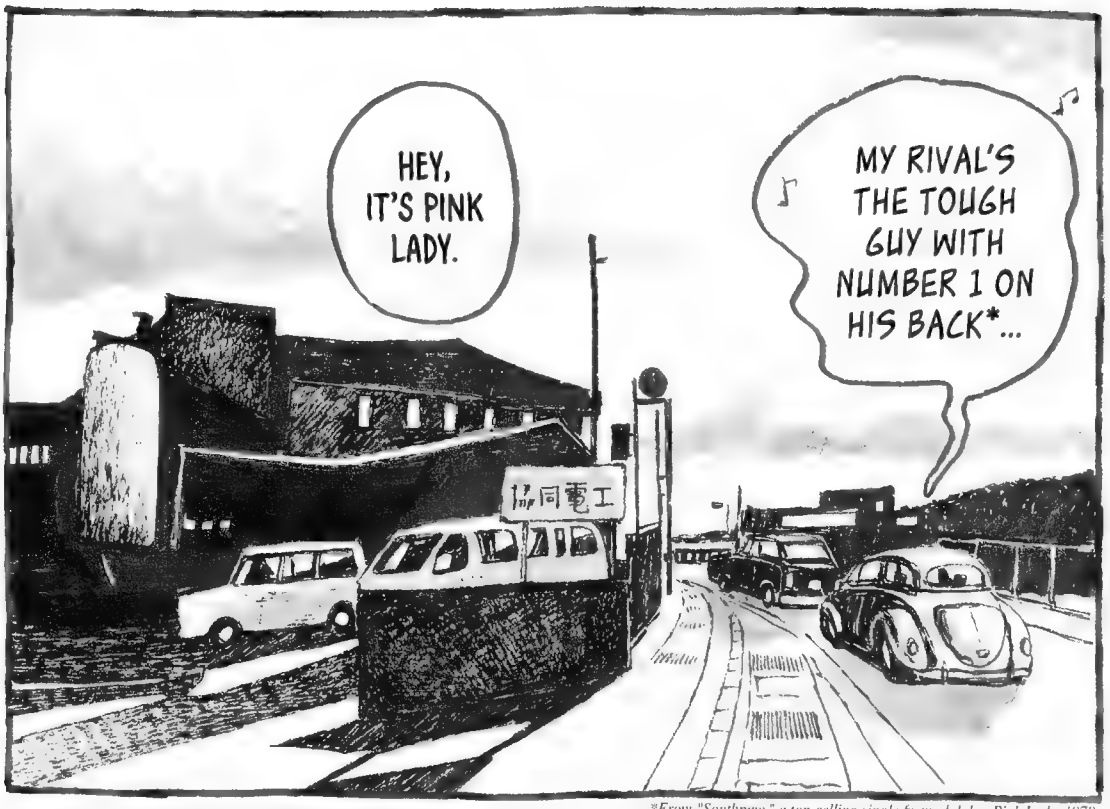
SO LATE.
ADACHI...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
HEYYY.
TA-DA
ROCK, PAPER ...
OKAY, LOOOSERS GO WITH AAADACHI...
OOHP
YEAH... PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS WENT ON FOREVER.
Tie-breaker!
TOUGH DAY, HUH.

UH-
HUH.
WHATSA
MATTER,
HARUO?
YOU LOSE
ALREADY?
SCISSORS
NOOOo
YAAY!!
GVUNK



*"Ramen University," a popular Kansai noodle chain


WHAT'S SO FUNNY, KIKO?
HEE ...
HEE HEE ...
THAT GUY DOESN'T SAY "THANK YOU" FOR ANYTHING.
NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.
HE PROMISED, Y'KNOW.
OF COURSE HE WILL.
WONDER IF HARUO'S GONNA THANK MR. ADACHI...
KIKO, TURN ON THE RADIO, WILLYA?
WHICH BUTTON?
UH...
THIS ONE?



*From "Southpaw," a top-selling single from idol duo Pink Lady, 1978

OH NO, REALLY ?!
BWA HA HA!
YOU GOT A NOSE HAIR!
BWA HA HA!!
MR. WHIS-KERS!
RIGHT NOW IN THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE THEY'RE CALLIN' YOU "MR. WHISKERS."
AND I WAS MEETING WITH ALL THOSE FOLKS TODAY.
HA HA!!
BWA HA HA!!
GET AWAY!
EWW, GROSS!
HARUO, HURRY AND YANK IT OUT FOR ME, WILLYA?
MIOCH-

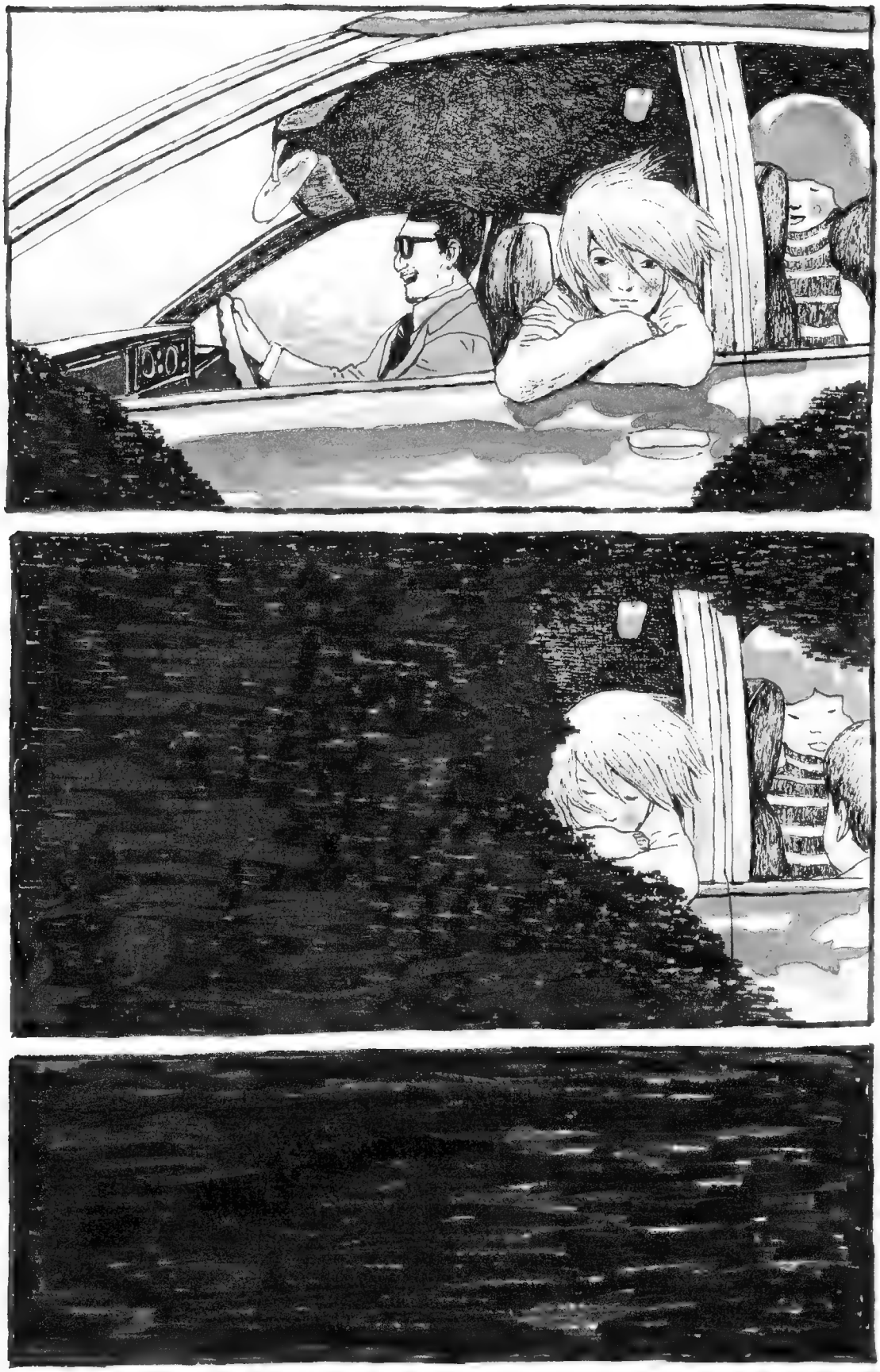
CHECK OUT THAT SUNSET.
LOOK!
DAD USED TO BRING ME UP HERE WHEN I WAS A BOY.
I LOVE THE VIEW HERE.

THE SIGN FROM THE BENCH IS "WALK."
HERE COMES THE SUPERSTAR.
...ON THE WAY HOME FROM JUDO PRACTICE.
YUP, RIDING WITH DAD...
YOU CAME UP HERE A LOT?
VROOM
BECAUSE OF *YOU*, OF COURSE.
WELL ...
HOW COME YOU WORK AT STAR KIDS HOME?

SO I COULD MEET *YOU*, HARUO.

WAH HA HA HA!!
WHAT'S THAT S'POSED TO MEAN ...
TSK ...
DRIVING AROUND WITH YOU MAKES ME REAL HAPPY, Y'KNOW.
YEAH, OF COURSE, YOU TOO, JUNSUKE.
HEY, MR. ADACHI, HOW 'BOUT ME? HOW 'BOUT ME?
SO I'M ONE *VERY* HAPPY MAN! HA HA HA.
40
AND I GOT TO MEET KOJI AND MEGUMU TOO!

THROW AS HARD AS YA CAN, AS HARD AS YA CAN.
THAT CRAZY PITCH, CRAZY PITCH, LIKE A HURRICANE!
SO LET'S GO TO RAMEN DAIGAKU!
LIKE I SAID, NOT TODAY.
DINNER'S WAITING FOR US AT THE HOME.

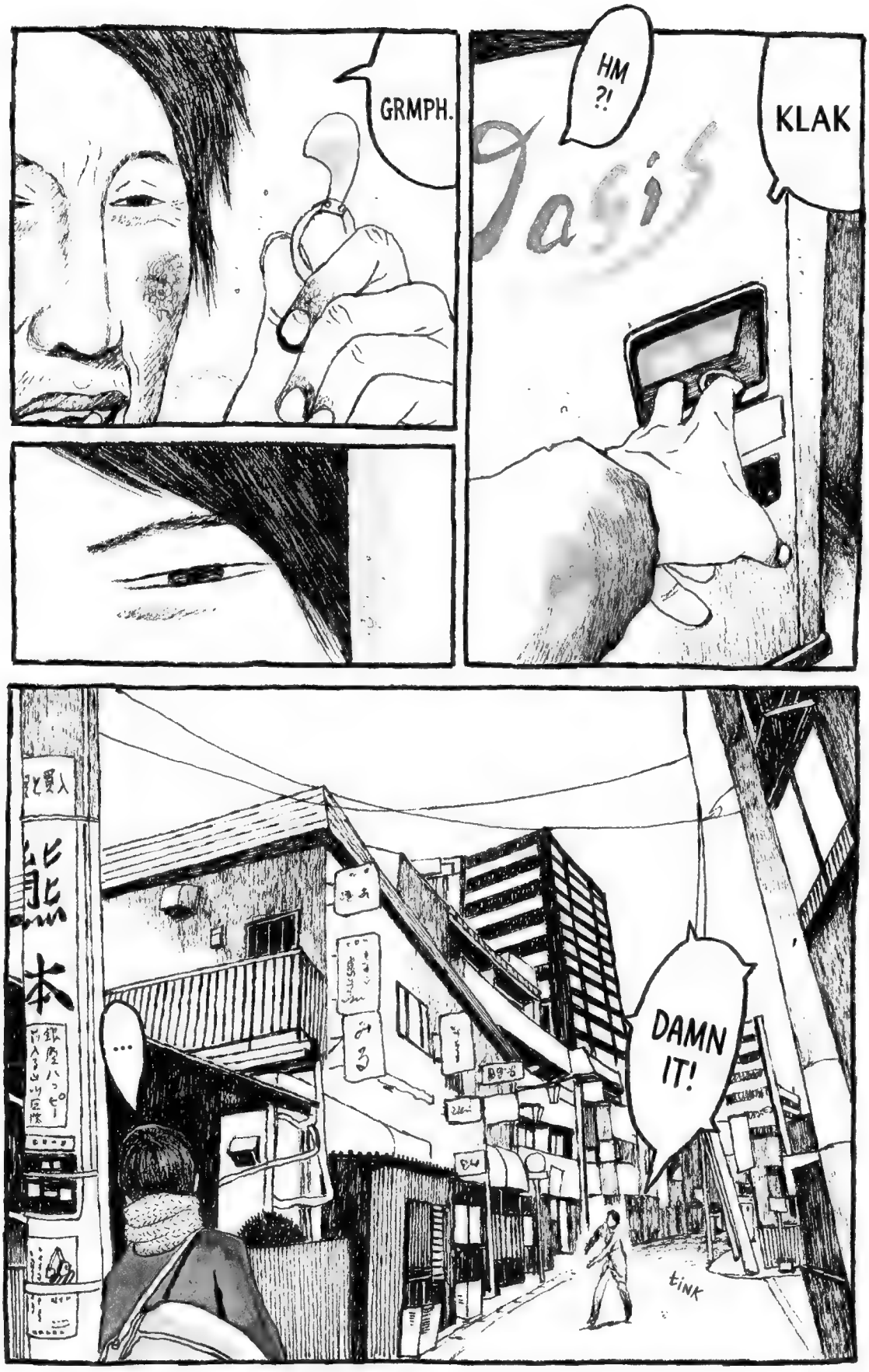


CHAPTER 10

"Humans can fly if they have the guts."

"Okay, so fly!"

*Signs: Yamada Clinic: Bicycle Parking Prohibited

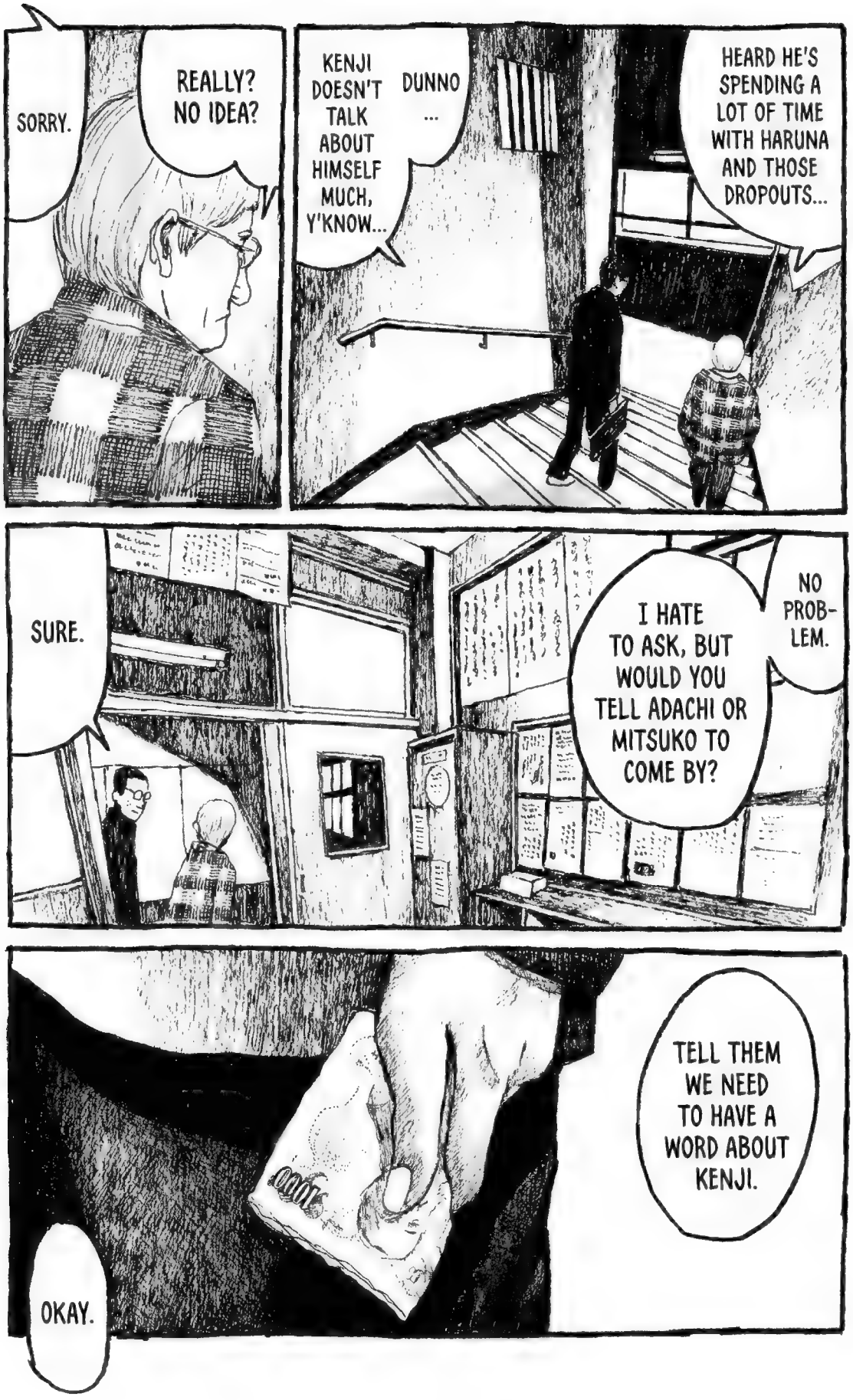

GRMPH.
HM ?!
KLAK
Oasis
...
DAMN IT!
tink

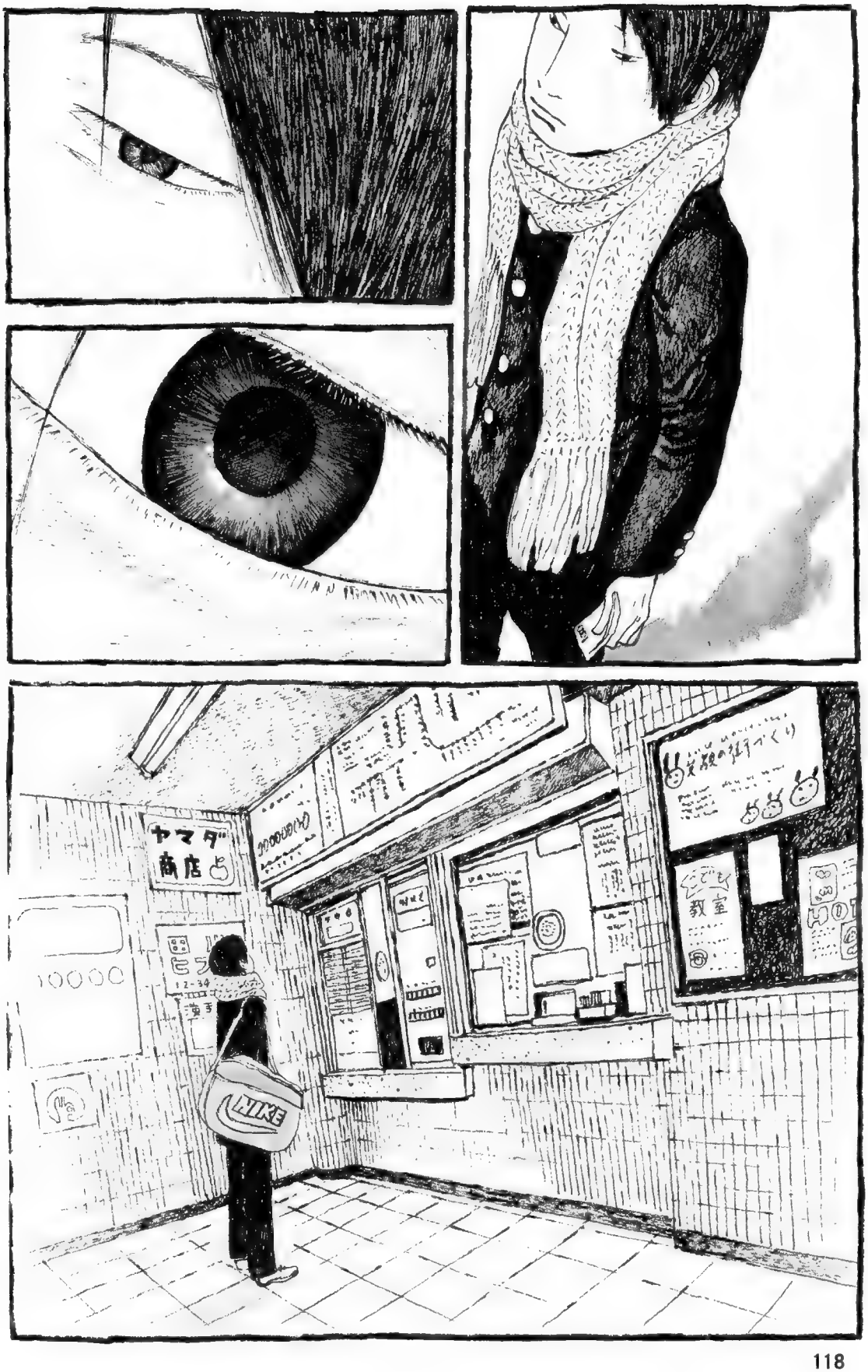
KLAK
CHARIO
KLAK
ugh
AHH...
HEY... KENJI.
WHO THE HELL'S KENJI?
NEVER HEARD OF 'IM.

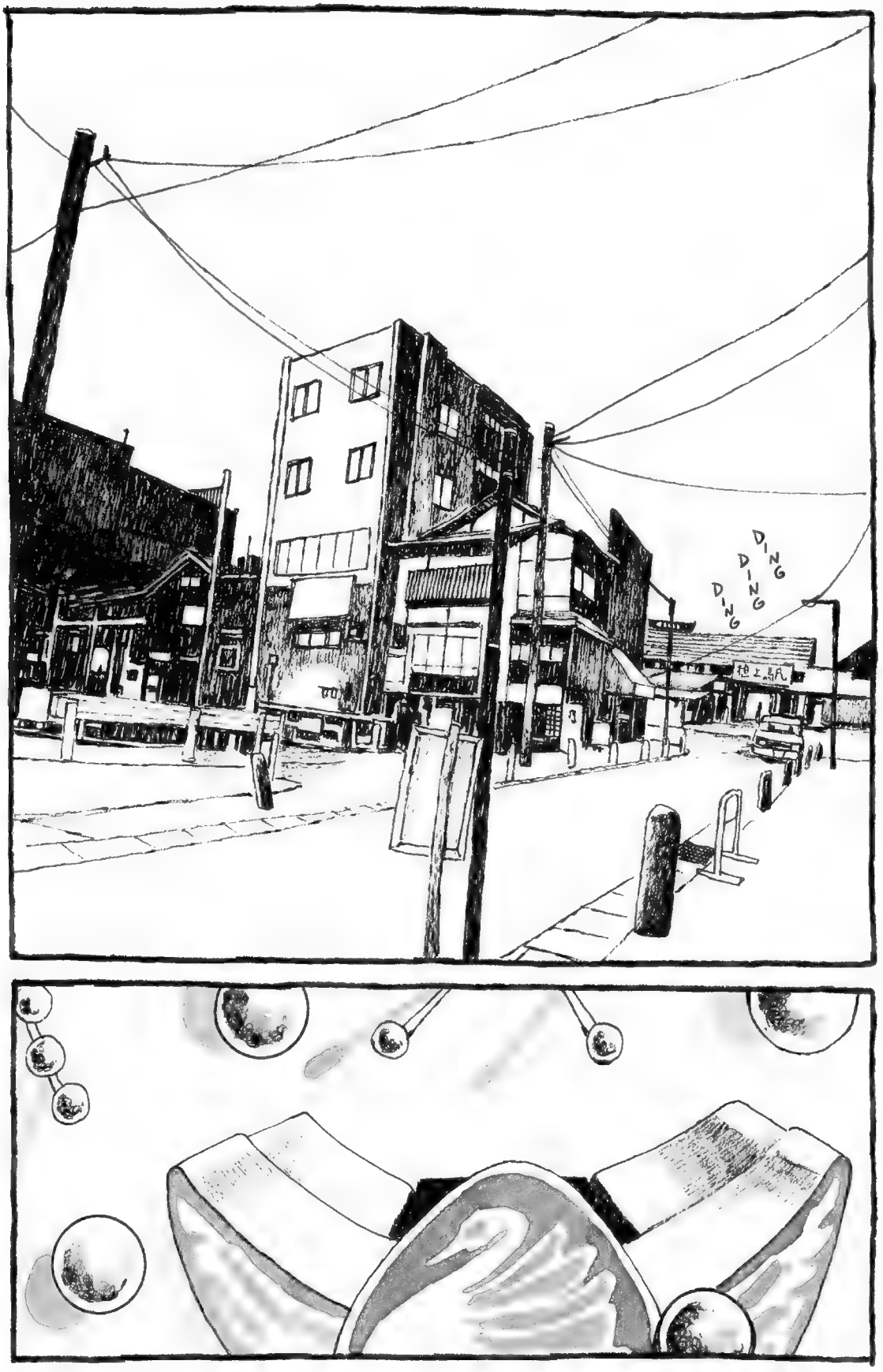
SHUT UP ALREADY, WILLYA?
I DON'T *USUALLY* DO THAT, Y'KNOW...
BOOZE BREATH.
YEAH, RIGHT.
I JUS' RAN OUTTA CHANGE, THAT'S ALL.
I'M NOT GOIN' TO HIGH SCHOOL.
FORGET ABOUT IT.
THIS ABOUT THAT PARENT-TEACHER CONFER-ENCE?
OH YEAH.
DON'TCHA HAVE SCHOOL?

DIDN'T YOU SAY MOM'S IN NAGOYA?
SCHOOLS ARE JUST FOR LAME-BRAINS, Y'KNOW.
OKAY, SOUNDS LIKE A *VERY GOOD IDEA.*
BING
WHERE IN NAGOYA?

TSUTOMU, GOT A SECOND?
KENJI'S ABSENT TODAY... IS SOMETHING GOING ON?
HE DIDN'T SHOW UP?
SURE.
WELL, NO. HE DIDN'T.


SORRY.
REALLY? NO IDEA?
KENJI DOESN'T TALK ABOUT HIMSELF MUCH, Y'KNOW...
DUNNO ...
HEARD HE'S SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH HARUNA AND THOSE DROPOUTS...
SURE.
I HATE TO ASK, BUT WOULD YOU TELL ADACHI OR MITSUKO TO COME BY?
NO PROB-LEM.
TELL THEM WE NEED TO HAVE A WORD ABOUT KENJI.
OKAY.


ヤマダ
商店
LIKE


DING
DING
DING

DRRM
CHING
DRMM
CHING
CHING
DRRM

KENJI ...?
HM?
CHING
CHING
DRMM
HEY, KENJI !!
KENJI !!
START
HEY, WAIT UP!!

WHOOPS, MY SANDAL ...
PACHINKO
THERE IT IS!
...

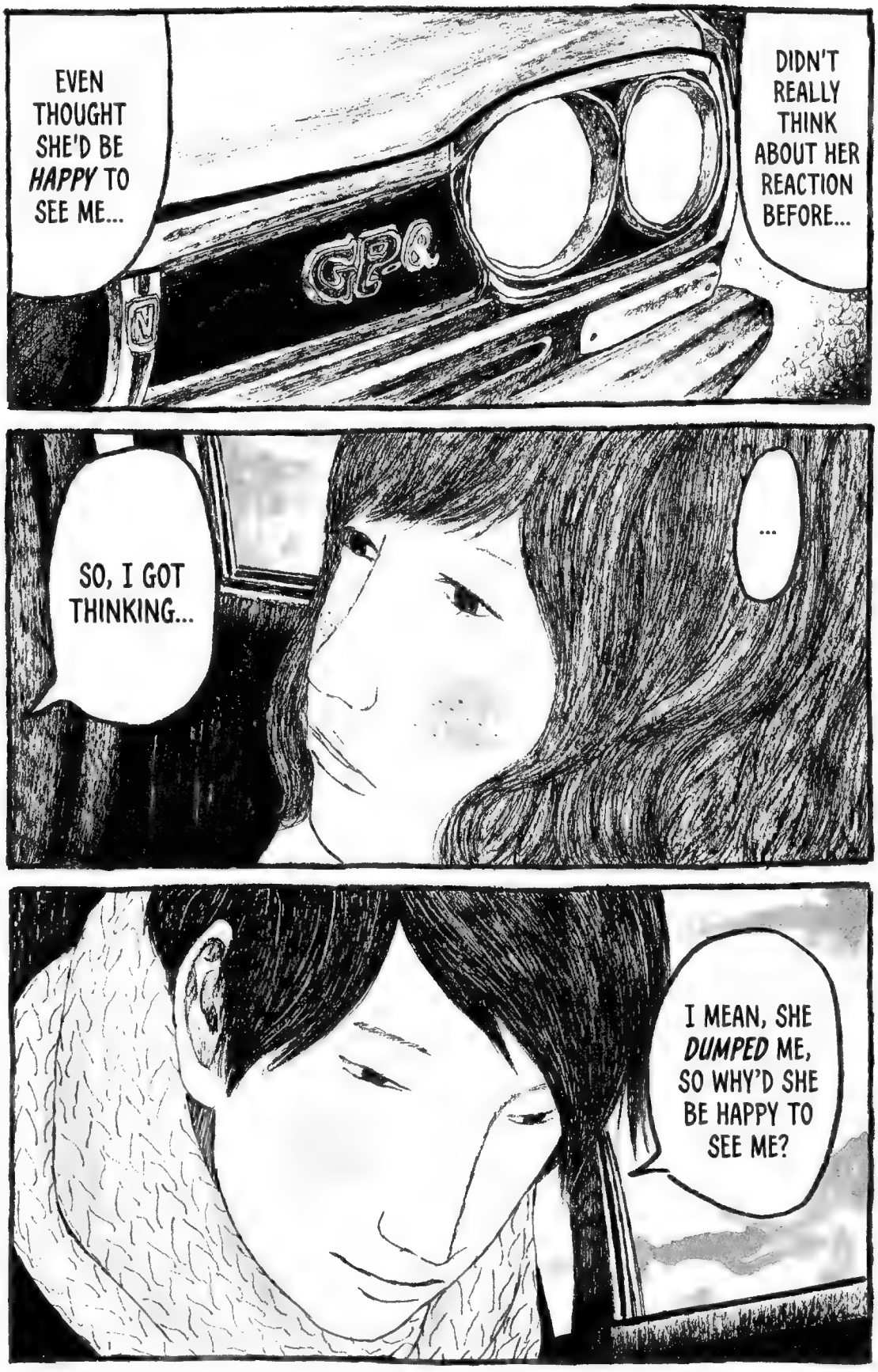
NICE TO SEE YOU THE OTHER DAY...
I'M ON A ROLL TODAY!
CHING CHING
...
CHING
WHAT'S WITH THE BAG?
DRMM
DITCHING SCHOOL?
UM... WELL... UH...
OH, THIS... JUST...
WHO CARES.
CHING CHING

I'M ON A ROLL TODAY!
HEY, GUYS.
DRM
YOU CHECKIN' THE PINS WHEN YOU SHOOT?
THAT WAS QUICK, GUYS.
HEY, KENJI.
HEY, HARUNA, WE GOT CLEANED OUT.
CHING CHING
KENJI'S HERE TODAY, SO YOU GUYS GO WITHOUT ME.
DRMM
LET'S GET TADA AND HIS GUYS OVER FOR A DRINK.
WANNA GO OVER TO BLUE-BIRD?

DRMM
UM...
THAT'S NO PLACE FOR THIS NICE BOY.
NO WAY.
SO JUS' BRING 'IM ALONG WITH US.
C'MON, LET'S GO TO BLUE-BIRD...
CHING CHING
YEAH!
I'M BUYIN'!
YESSS!
...
RUNNING AWAY?

*"Imitation Gold," a hit single by singer-actress Momoe Yamaguchi, 1977

AHH, AHH, AHH, IMITATION GOLD...
I *WAS* THINKIN' OF LEAVING AND GOING TO MY MOM'S PLACE IN NAGOYA.
AT THE STATION BUYING MY TICKET ...
...
YOU *WERE* THINKING?
HOW SHE HATES TO BE BOTHERED...
I THOUGHT HOW ANNOYED SHE'D BE...

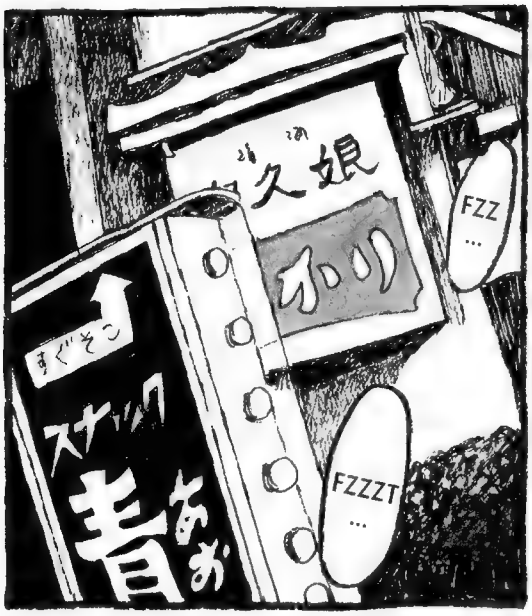

EVEN THOUGHT SHE'D BE *HAPPY* TO SEE ME...
DIDN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT HER REACTION BEFORE...
GP-Q
SO, I GOT THINKING...
...
I MEAN, SHE *DUMPED* ME, SO WHY'D SHE BE HAPPY TO SEE ME?

*Sign: Bluebird

ANOTHER ROUND OF BEERS HERE, GRAMPS!
THAT SO...
HI.
THIS HERE'S KENJI ITO. HE'S AN EIGHTH GRADER AT ASAHI JUNIOR HIGH.
NO WAY.
YES, SIR!
HOW 'BOUT COMIN' TO NEXT WEEK'S MEETING?
KID'S ONLY 16, CAN'T EVEN GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE. PLEASE DON'T INVITE HIM.
SO ONE OF YOU'LL GIVE HIM A RIDE.

YOU KID-DING?
WHA?
S'OKAY, SIR, I'LL RIDE MY BIKE.
tsk
IDIOT.

FASTEST PAPERBOY AT THE DISTRIBU-TOR'S!
...
NO, REALLY. I'M SUPER-FAST WHEN I RIDE.
BWA HA HA! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!


FZZ...
FZZZT...
すぐそこ
スナック
青

SORRY.
NOISY KIDS...
HA HA HA HA

WHERE'D YOU EVER SEE A GANG RIDING DUCATIS?
IDIOT.
A C4'S* MORE YOUR SIZE...
HOW 'BOUT THIS ONE HERE?
MACH, THAT'S A LOTTA BIKE FOR A BEGINNER.
HEY, KENJI...
GO HOME ALREADY.

*Kansai biker term for the Honda CB400 produced 1974-1977

...
NOT LIKE HIS PARENTS'LL WAIT UP...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, HARUNA?
UH-OH.
HM...
CHAIN
SO BE A GOOD LITTLE BOY AND...
YOU DON'T BELONG HERE!!
SHUT UP!
...WITH DOGS BARKING AT YOU ON YOUR *STUPID* BICYCLE!!
...GO BACK TO YOUR *STUPID* PAPER ROUTE ...

SORRY !!
HEY, KIDS...
KRASH
OH MY!
...AND I'LL *END* YOU!
SHOW YOUR FACE HERE AGAIN...
THAT'S IT FOR YOU, HARUNA.
HEY, *RELAX!*
C'MON, KENJI.
WHA ...?
GET OUTTA HERE!!

WEIRD.
HEY, SHE'S LAUGHING...
...HEH HEH HEH...HEH HEH...HEH HEH...
WHOA, WHOA...
I'LL KILL YOU!!
WHO THE HELL SAID THAT?!
SLIDE DOWN HERE AN' HAVE ANOTHER DRINK.
LEAVE 'ER ALONE.
BRR.

REALLY SORRY ...
GUESS I PISSED HER OFF.
YEAH ...
BUT WHATCHA GONNA DO?
~Stop. Bluebird

LEMME PAY FOR EVERYONE TONIGHT ...
THINK I WAS BORN YESTER-DAY?
...
THAT GIRL'S *IN LOVE* WITH YOU.
WHY SHOULD I LET *YOU* PAY FOR *US?*

HARUNA TOLD US STUFF.
ZZZZZ
HAHAHAHAHA
SAID YOU WERE SAVING UP FOR YOUR FUTURE AND ALL THAT...
SAID YOU WERE REAL NICE TO HER AT SCHOOL...
WELL...
YEAH...
WALKING ON EGG-SHELLS IN FRONT OF THE OTHER KIDS, I IMAGINE.
SO TAKE CARE, KID.
OKAY.
SEKI— CLASS ACT.

HMM.
WHAT NOW...?

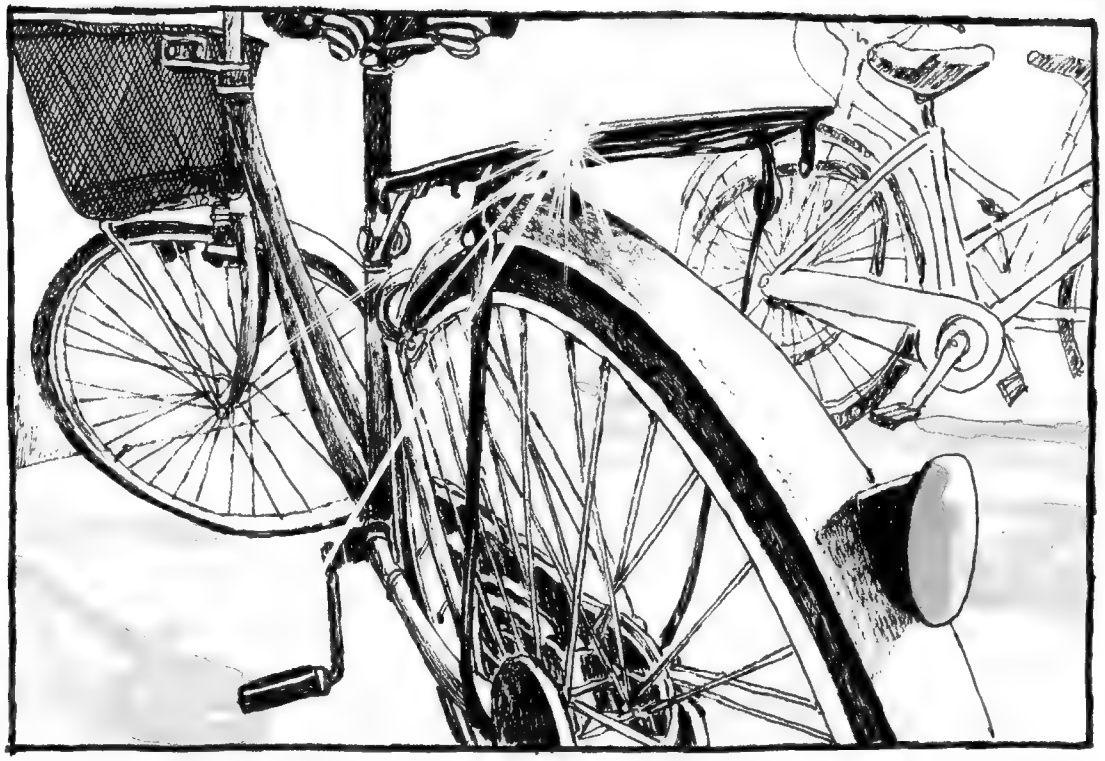
DAAAMN.
WHERE THE HELL AM I?

NOT MORE
HA HA HA HA...
GRAWR!
HEY, QUIT RUNNING AROUND!
HAH!
OWWW.
THAT JERK ADACHI *PUNCHED* ME.

WOW.
WHERE'D YOU HEAR THAT ONE, HARUO?
WELL, KENJI, *YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW*, RIGHT?
...
A COMIC BOOK ...
YA DON'T SAY...
IN A COMIC BOOK!
HAH!
HA HA...
HA HA.

WHAT? Y'WANT YOUR SHADES BACK, RIGHT?
KEEP 'EM. KNOCKOFFS ANYWAY ...
HM?
HEY, HARUO?
I'M THINKING ABOUT GOIN' ON TO HIGH SCHOOL ...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WELL, I THINK YOU SHOULD DO WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE.
HAH!
WHATEVER I FEEL LIKE.
RIGHT...
YEAH.

DOIN' WHAT I FEEL LIKE.



CHAPTER 11

"I wanna see her as much as I don't wanna see her."

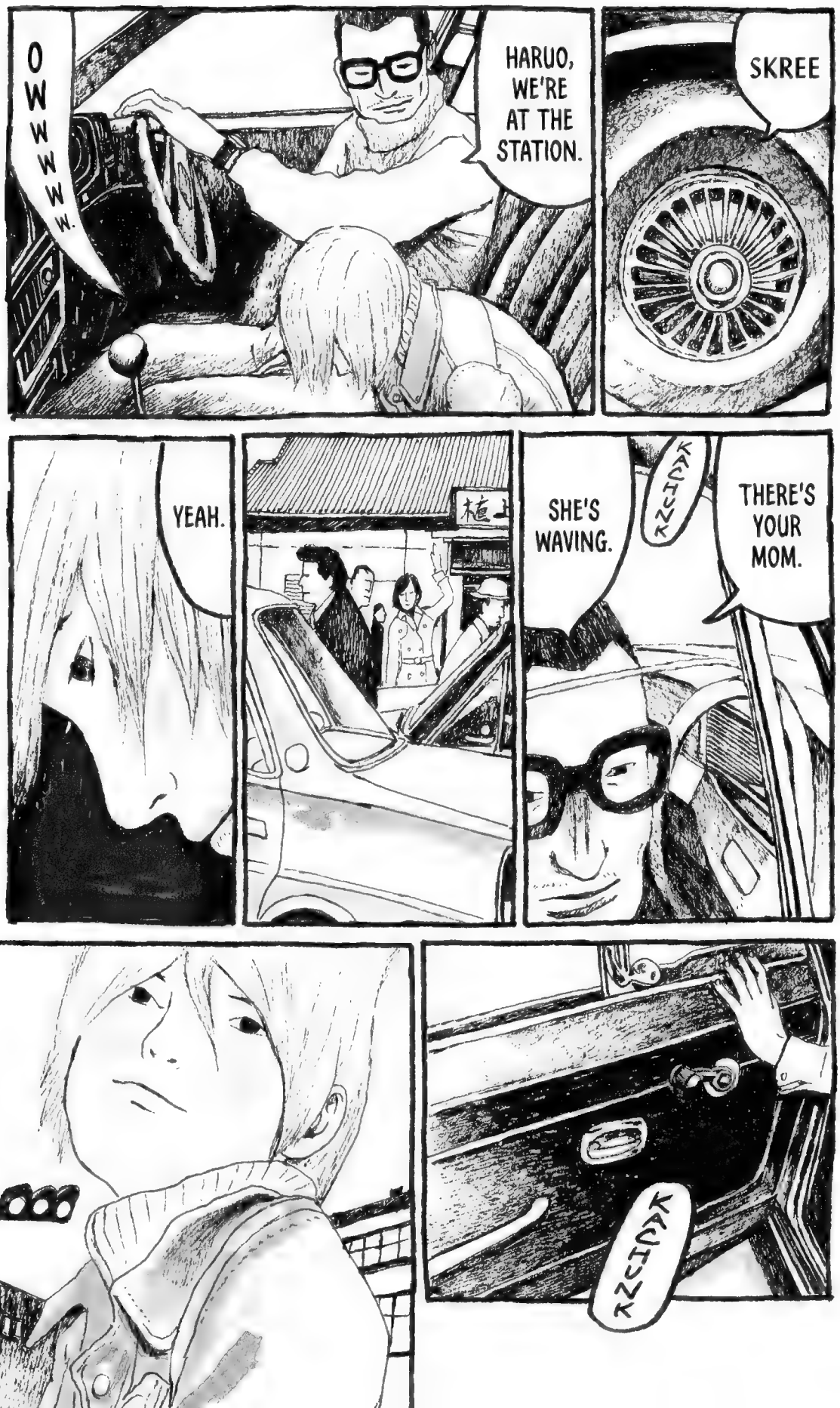
"Well, I do wanna see her!"

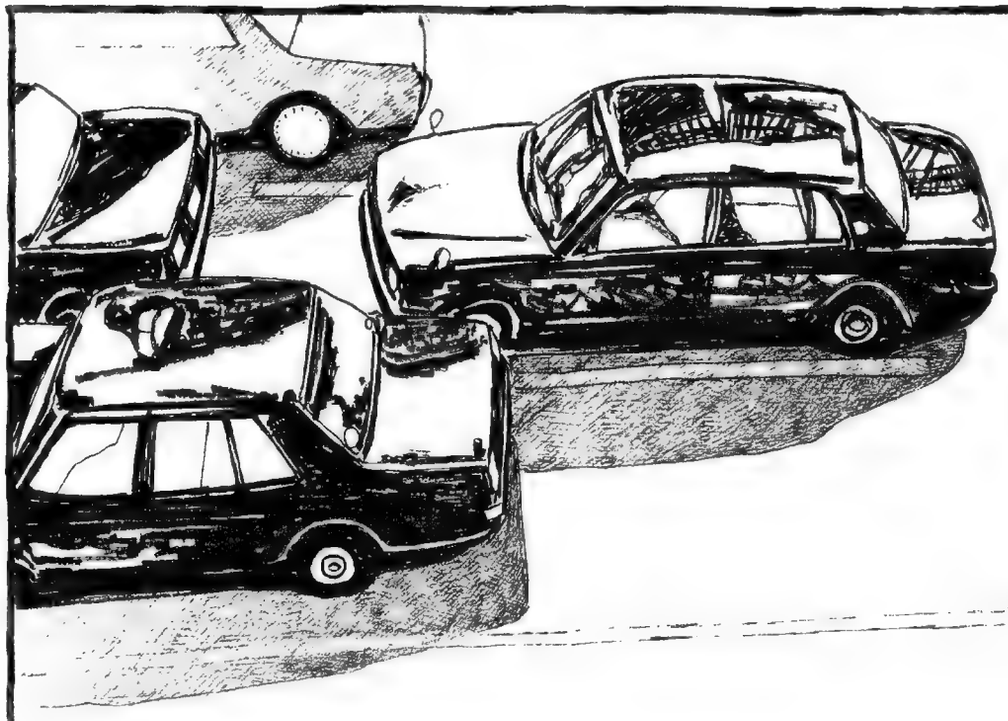
RRRMM
止まれ

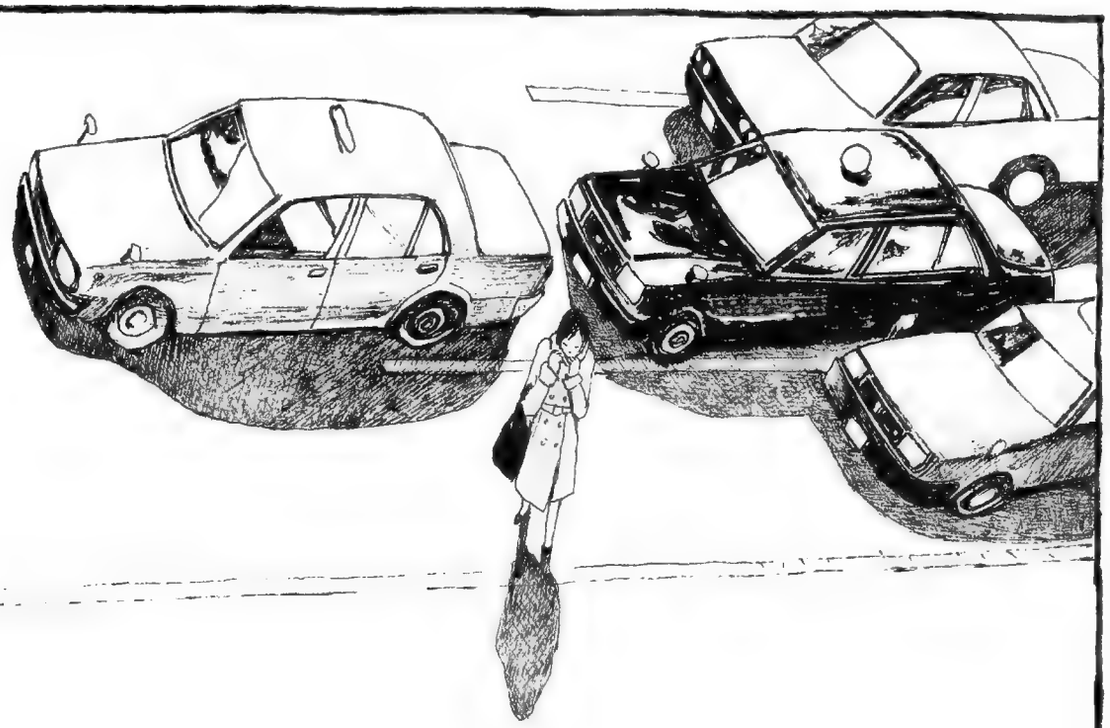
DING
DING
DING
DING
YEAH?
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
I'LL GET CARSICK.
GONNA FREEZE.
HARUO, ROLL UP THE WINDOW, WILLYA?
KLAK
KLAK
WELL, WE CAN'T HAVE THAT...
VRUB BUB BUB
DING

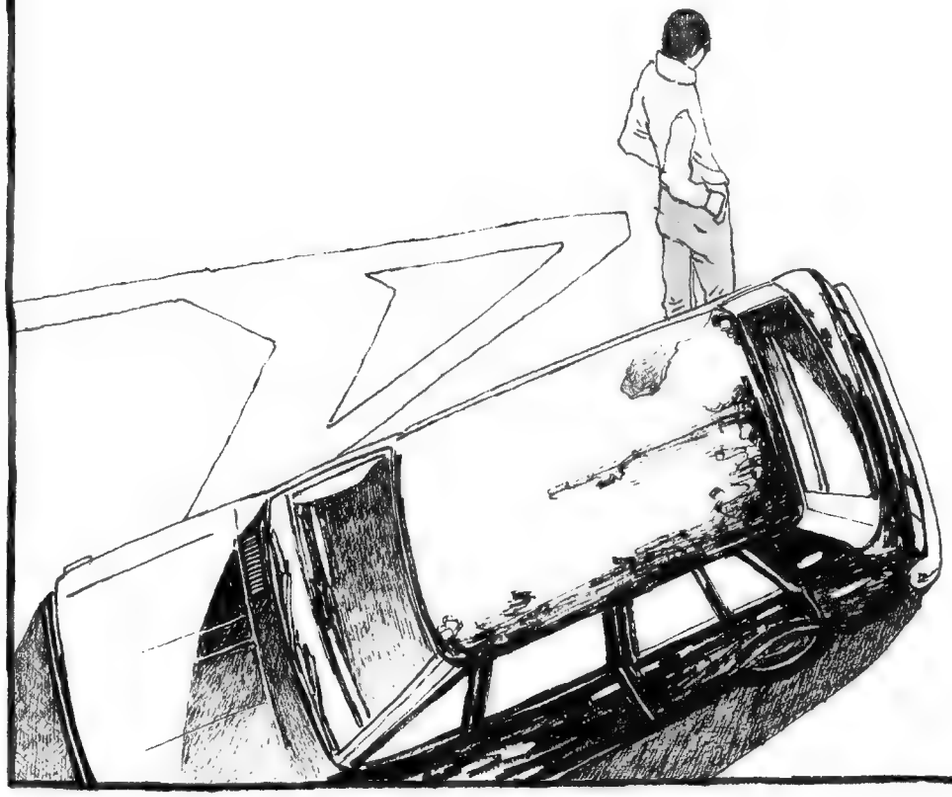
HORNY-KEN GAVE 'EM TO ME.
GIMME A BREAK.
YOU SHOULD TAKE OFF THOSE DARK GLASSES.
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU CAR-SICK?
OWW, MY CHEST HURTS.
JUST SAYIN', YOU HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR MOM IN A WHILE, OU MIGHT TO TAKE M OFF.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN.
OKAY, OKAY.
HA HA HA!
GETTING WORKED UP FOR THE *BIG REUNION* ?
NO, I'M NOT *CARSICK,* STUPID.

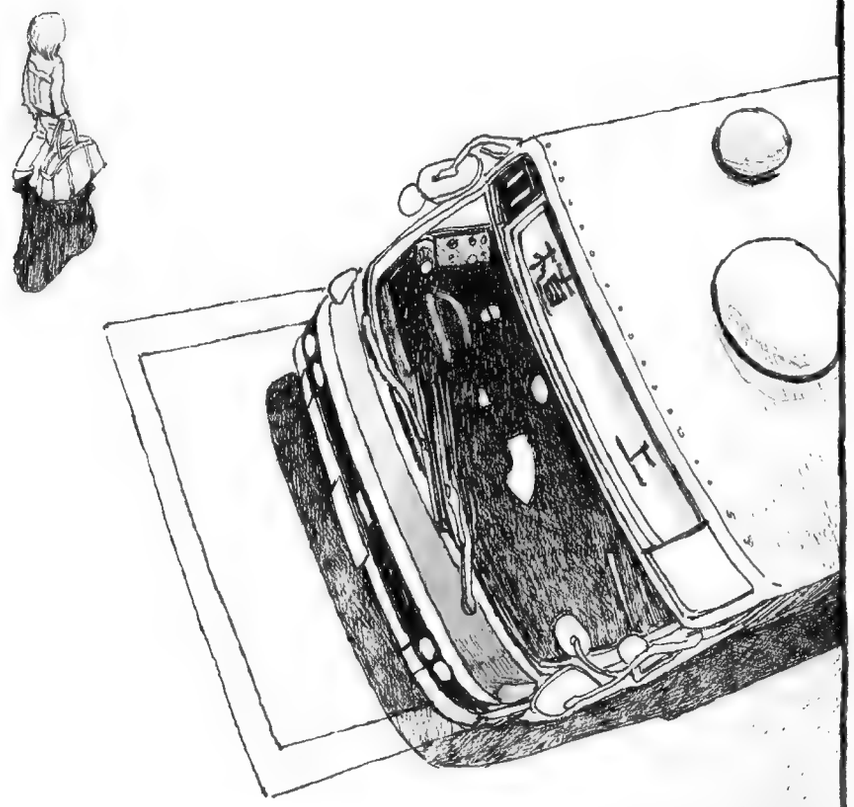
WHYDYA ALWAYS GOTTA TALK LIKE THAT?
YOU REALLY TALK A LOT OF CRAP, Y'KNOW? HOW 'BOUT YOU SHUT UP AND WATCH THE ROAD.
VRRR
I'M NOT YOUR CHAUFFEUR, Y'KNOW.

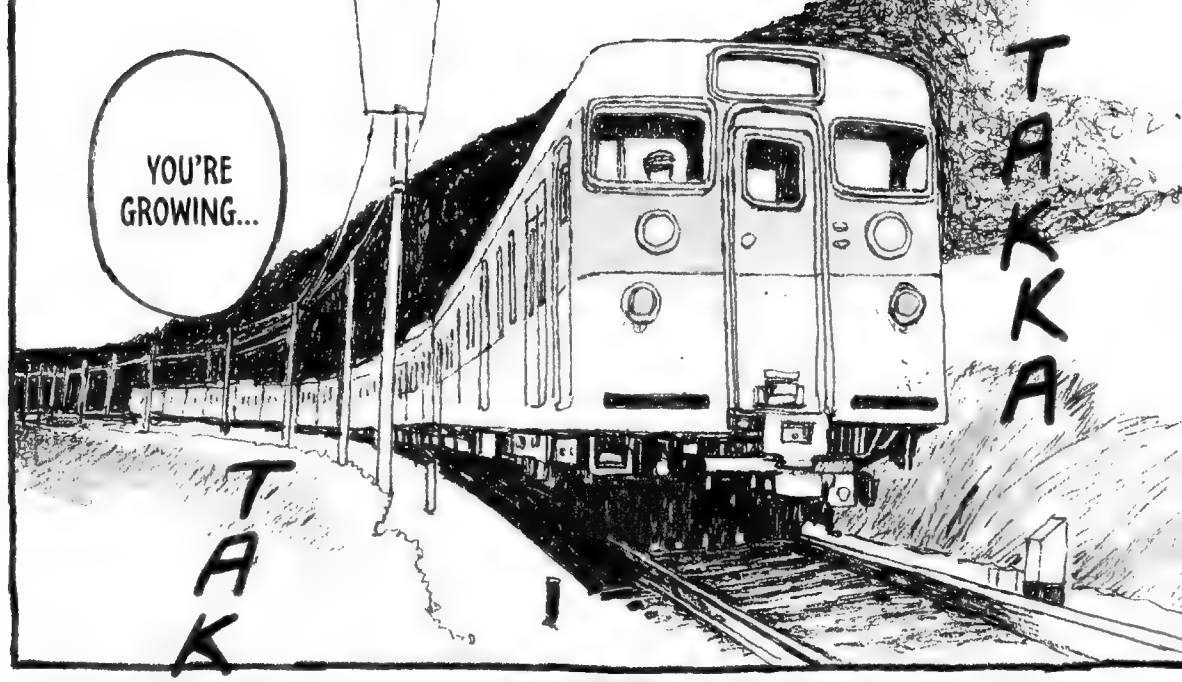

OWWWW.
HARUO, WE'RE AT THE STATION.
SKREE
YEAH.
SHE'S WAVING.
KACHI
KACHI
THERE'S YOUR MOM.
KACHI







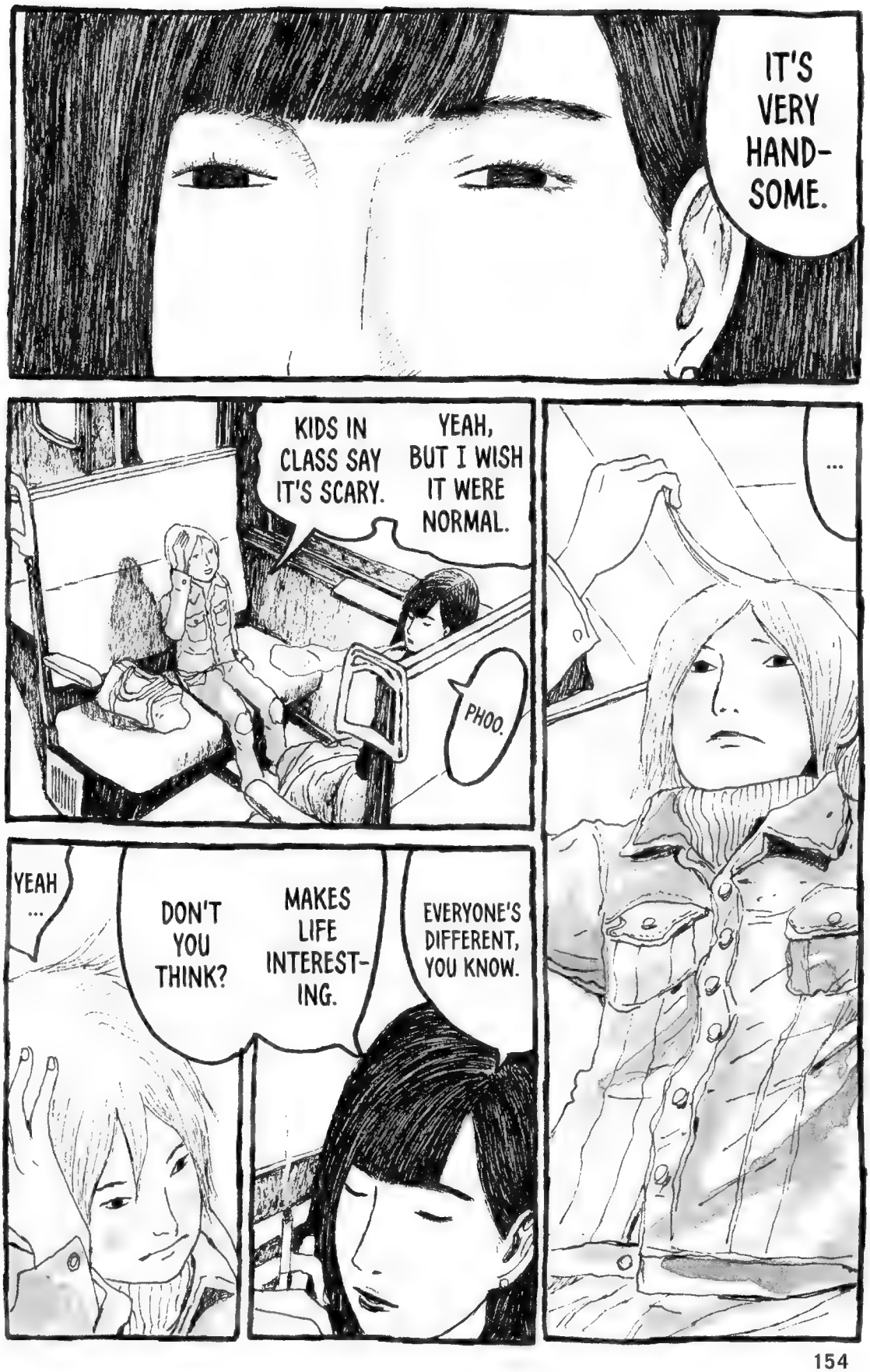



YOU'RE GROWING...
TAKKA
TAKKA

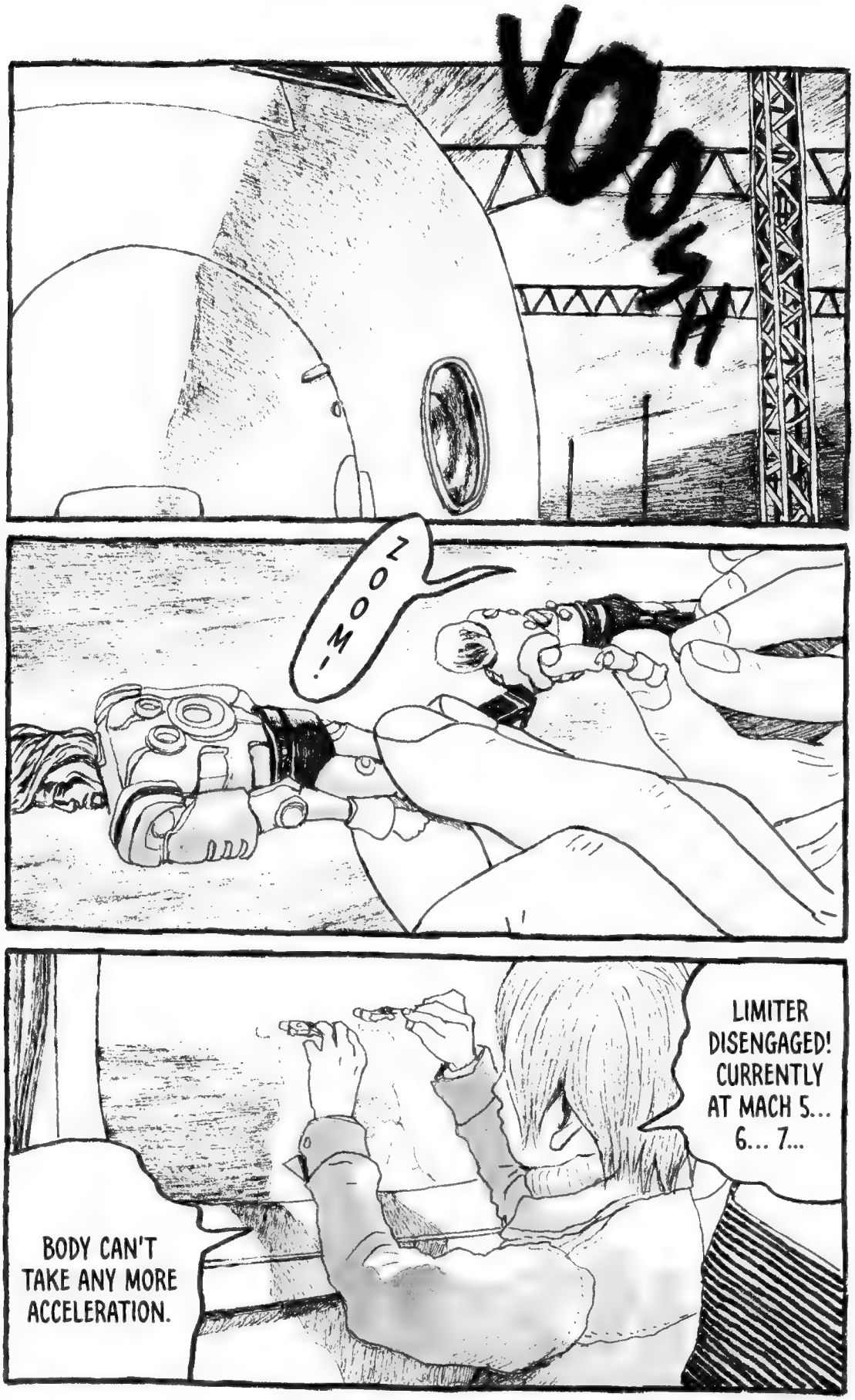
KA
SO TALL.

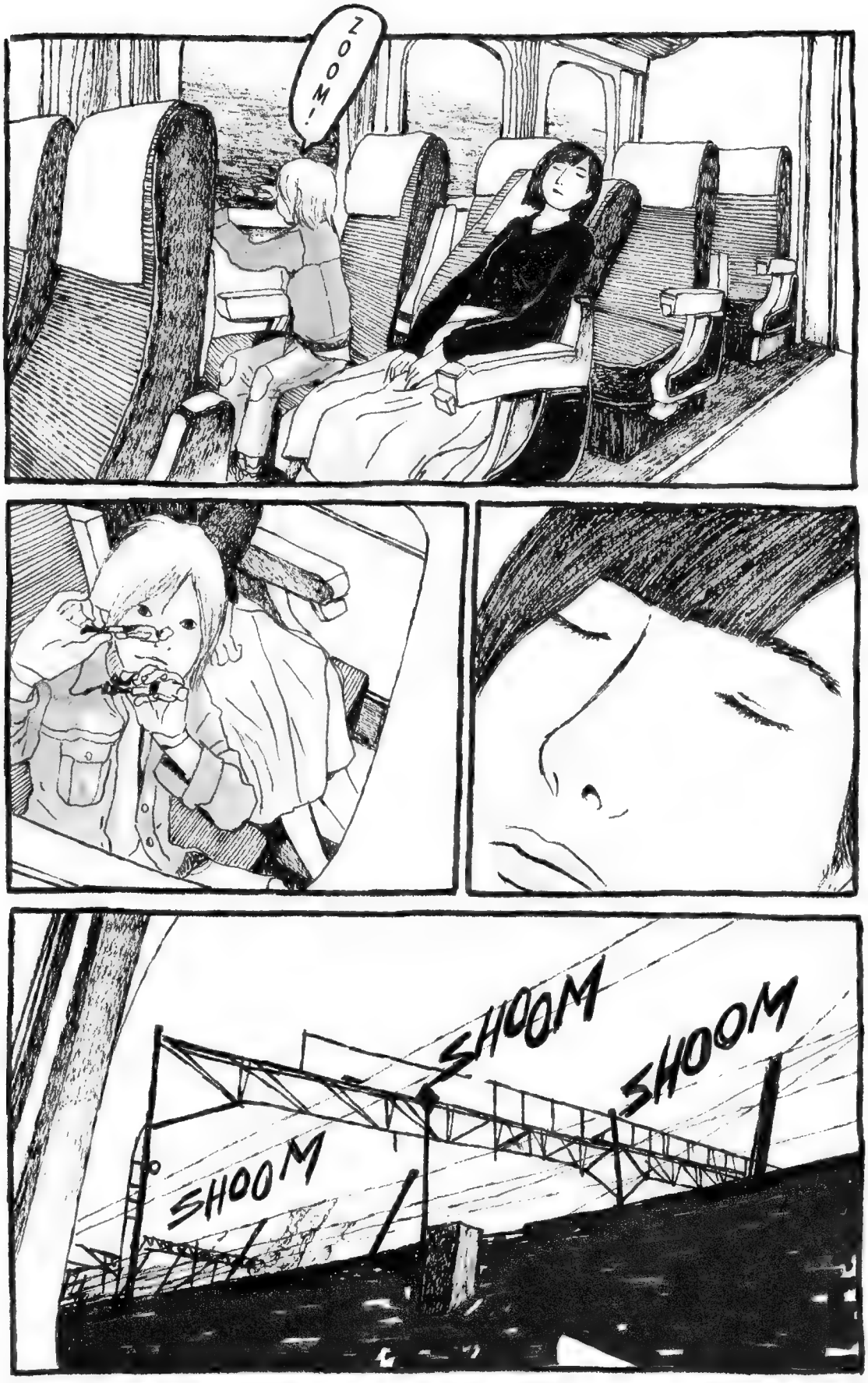
I CAN'T EVEN TELL.
TAKKA
Y' THINK?

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF MY CLASS, I GUESS.
UMM.
HOW ARE YOU DOING IN SCHOOL?
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
THAT ONE WITH THE RED ROOF.
HEY... THAT'S MOGI'S HOUSE.
hmm
YOUR HAIR'S TURNED WHITE AGAIN.
WHICH ONE'S THE HOME?
AL-READY PASSED IT.


IT'S VERY HAND-SOME.
KIDS IN CLASS SAY IT'S SCARY.
YEAH, BUT I WISH IT WERE NORMAL.
PHOO.
...
YEAH ...
DON'T YOU THINK?
MAKES LIFE INTEREST-ING.
EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW.

I GUESS IF YOU SAY SO, MOM.
MAYBE WHITE HAIR IS OKAY AFTER ALL.
THAT'S RIGHT.
MOM SAID IT LOOKS HANDSOME.
KLAK
KLAK
TAK TAK
TAK TAK
MOM SAID SO.


VOOSH
ZOOM!
LIMITER DISENGAGED! CURRENTLY AT MACH 5... 6... 7...
BODY CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE ACCELERATION.


ZOOM!
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM

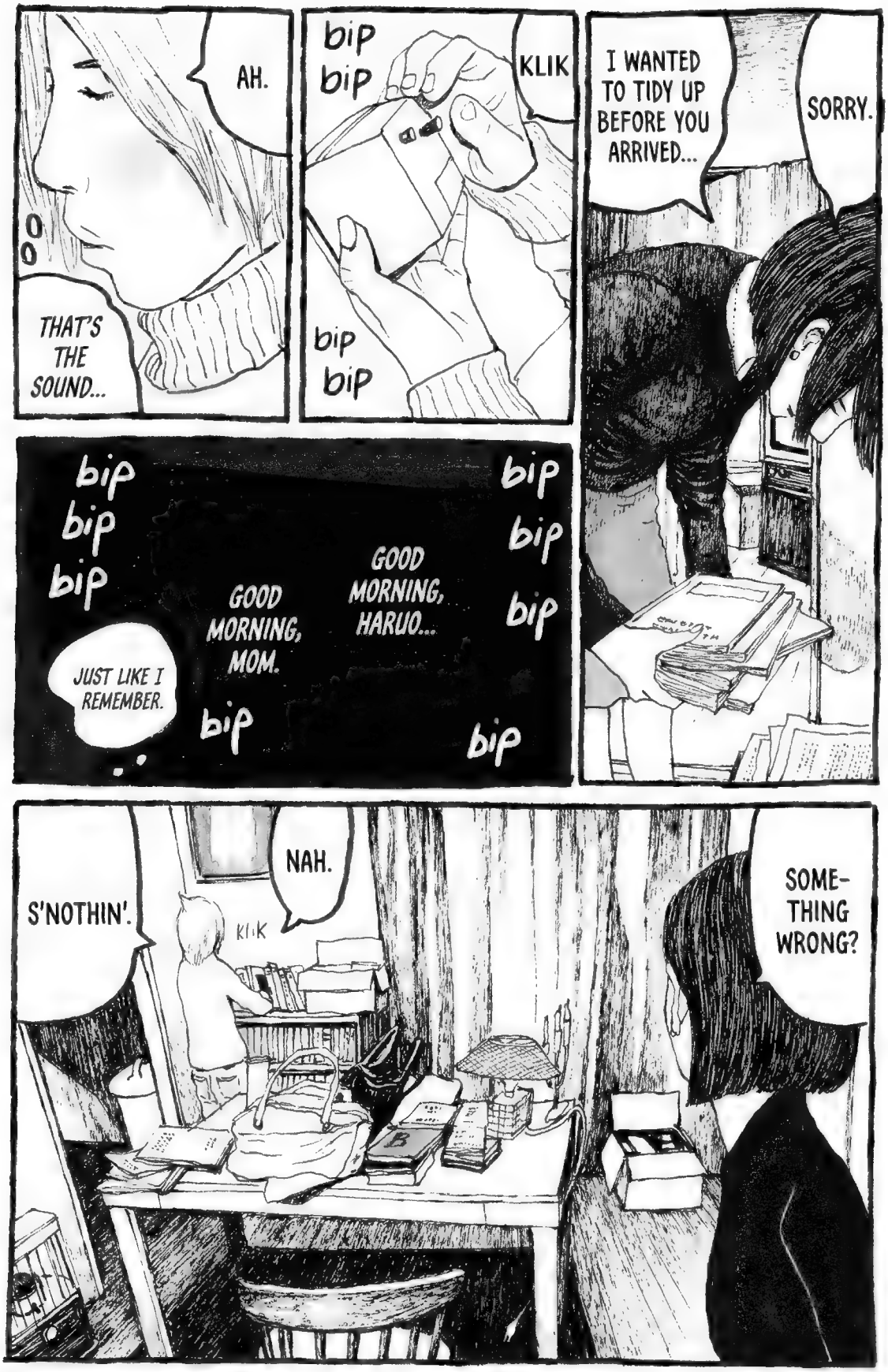
GROAR
HARUO, WHAT'S WRONG?
GET DOWN HERE.
THE SMELL O' THE CITY!
MOM, I CAN SMELL THE CITY!
CAN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE NOISE!
GROAR

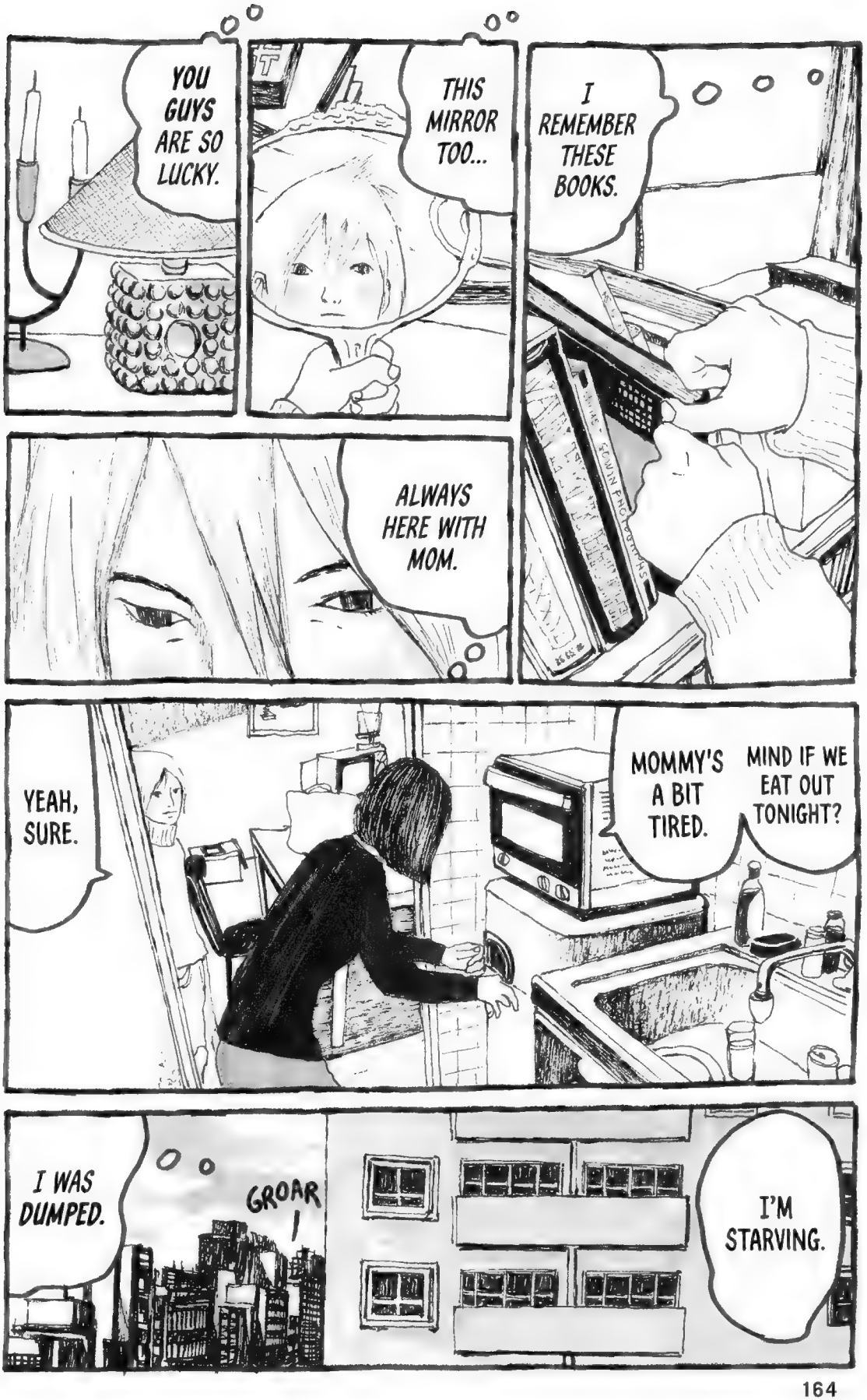
UH-HUH...
GROAR
WILL YOU EVER GET YOUR OLD ACCENT BACK?
HARUO, YOU SOUND LIKE AN OSAKA COMEDIAN NOW...
...
THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' LIKE THE CITY!
THAT THERE'S ONE BIG BUILDING!

YOU MOVED AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST LAST WEEK, SO I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TIDY UP.
IT'S BY A BIG STREET SO IT'S NOISY AT NIGHT.
...
I LIKE THE CITY LIKE THIS.
THE SUN-SET, AND BUILDINGS GETTING DARK...
I LIKE LOOKIN' AT ALL THE CARS' RED LIGHTS.
SO AWE-SOME.

GRROAR

HEY, I REMEMBER THIS CLOCK.
HM?
THIS ONE.
YOU GOT THIS BEFORE I WENT TO THE HOME.
YOU CAN HAVE IT IF YOU LIKE.
DIDN'T SAY I *WANTED* IT.


AH.
THAT'S THE SOUND...
bip bip
KLIK
bip bip
I WANTED TO TIDY UP BEFORE YOU ARRIVED...
SORRY.
bip bip bip
JUST LIKE I REMEMBER.
GOOD MORNING, MOM.
GOOD MORNING, HARUO...
bip bip bip
bip
bip
S'NOTHIN'.
NAH.
KLIK
SOME-THING WRONG?


YOU GUYS ARE SO LUCKY.
THIS MIRROR TOO...
I REMEMBER THESE BOOKS.
ALWAYS HERE WITH MOM.
YEAH, SURE.
MOMMY'S A BIT TIRED.
MIND IF WE EAT OUT TONIGHT?
I WAS DUMPED.
GROAR!
I'M STARVING.

...
THEY SAID SHOSUKE DISAPPEARED AND THEY GOT ALL EXCITED AND...
...CALLED THE YOUTH BRIGADE TO GO SEARCH FOR HIM.
SO DID THEY FIND THE BOY?
IT GOT DARK AND JUN WAS SCREAMIN' AND CRYIN' AND IT WAS AWFUL.
HORNY-KEN SAID TARO'S GOT SUPER-POWERS!
YEAH!
AMAZ-ING.
TARO FOUND HIM, NO PROB-LEM.
YUP.

I'D LIKE TO MEET TARO SOME-DAY.
HE'S A TOTAL *PIG!*
A PIG?
GOT THIS DISEASE AND HE CAN'T STOP EATING.
THREE MORE DAYS...
shlorp
EATS MAYON-NAISE LIKE THIS!
SO I'VE ONLY GOT TWO MORE DAYS WITH MOM...
ONE DAY THEY MADE ME GO BUY MAYO *THREE* TIMES!
NO, REALLY, IT'S TRUE!
YOU'RE JOK-ING.
HA HA HA.
THE LAST DAY'S ALL SAD AND NO FUN, SO REALLY THERE'S ONLY TWO MORE DAYS ...

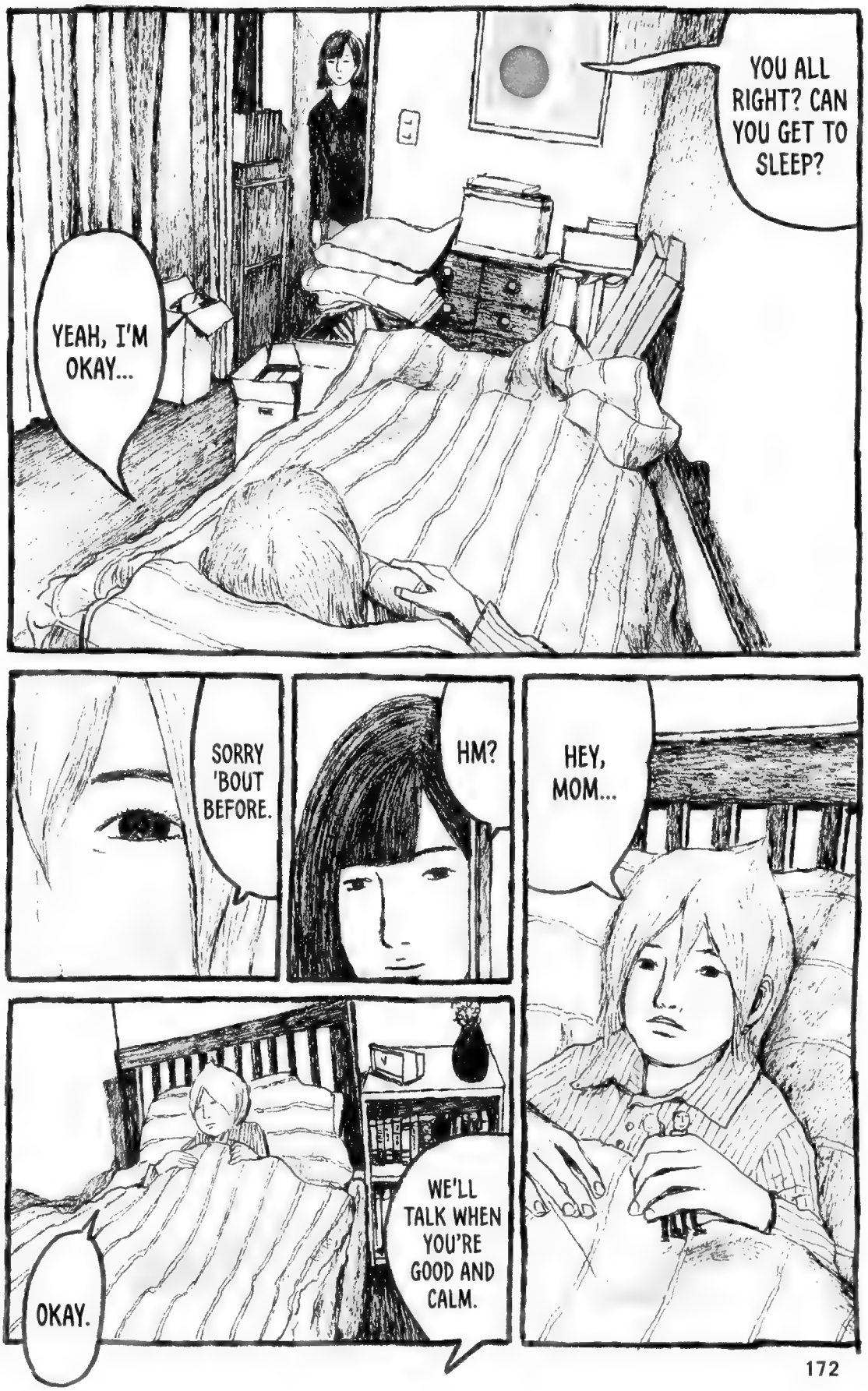
...
THE HOME SOUNDS LIKE FUN...
OH NO.
IT'S NOT.
IT'S HELL, AND YOU KNOW IT!
HOW COULD IT EVER BE FUN?!
SHE'LL HATE ME IF I SAY IT.
...
I SHOULD KNOW BETTER.
RUINED THE WHOLE DAY.

HOW LONG YOU GONNA KEEP ME THERE?!
I WANNA GET OUTTA THERE!
I WANNA COME HOME AND LIVE WITH MY MOM!
LOWER YOUR VOICE. PLEASE.
I WANNA LIVE WITH YOU!!
MOM!
SIT DOWN.

I WON'T BE YELLED AT.
I PROMISE I'LL BE A GOOD BOY AND EVERYTHING.
I'LL FIX MY ACCENT, OKAY ?!
MOM!
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT!
MOM! THAT AIN'T FAIR!

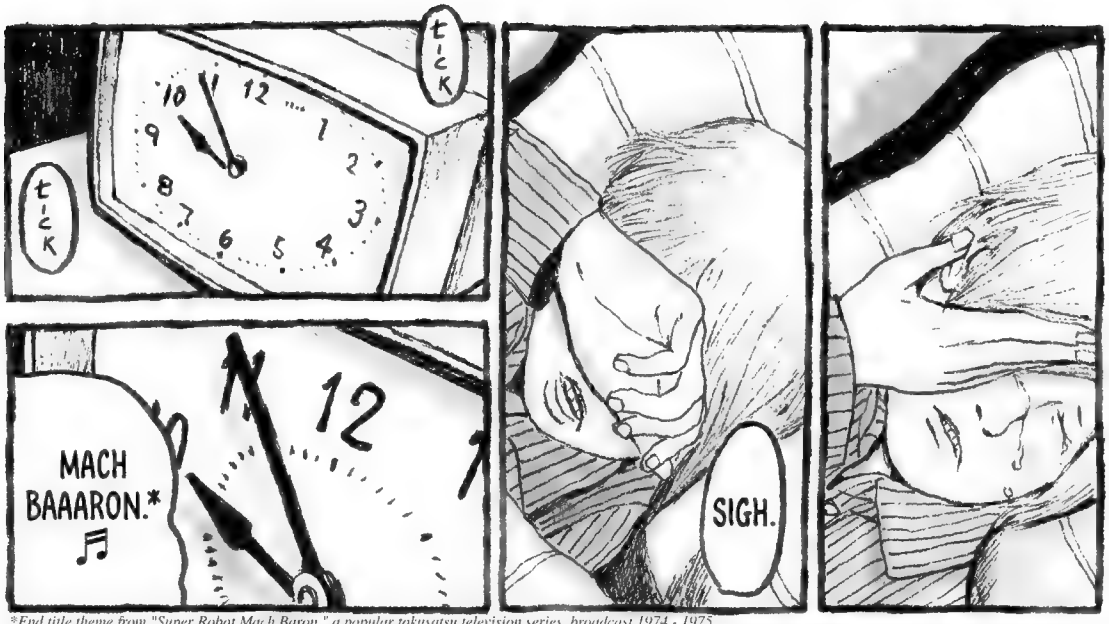
NOT FAIR !!
DON'T WANT IT ANY-MORE!
YOU'VE GOT A LOT LEFT THERE.
FINISH YOUR DINNER.
tak
THEN I'LL GO SETTLE UP.

*Osechi = a set of traditional New Year's foods

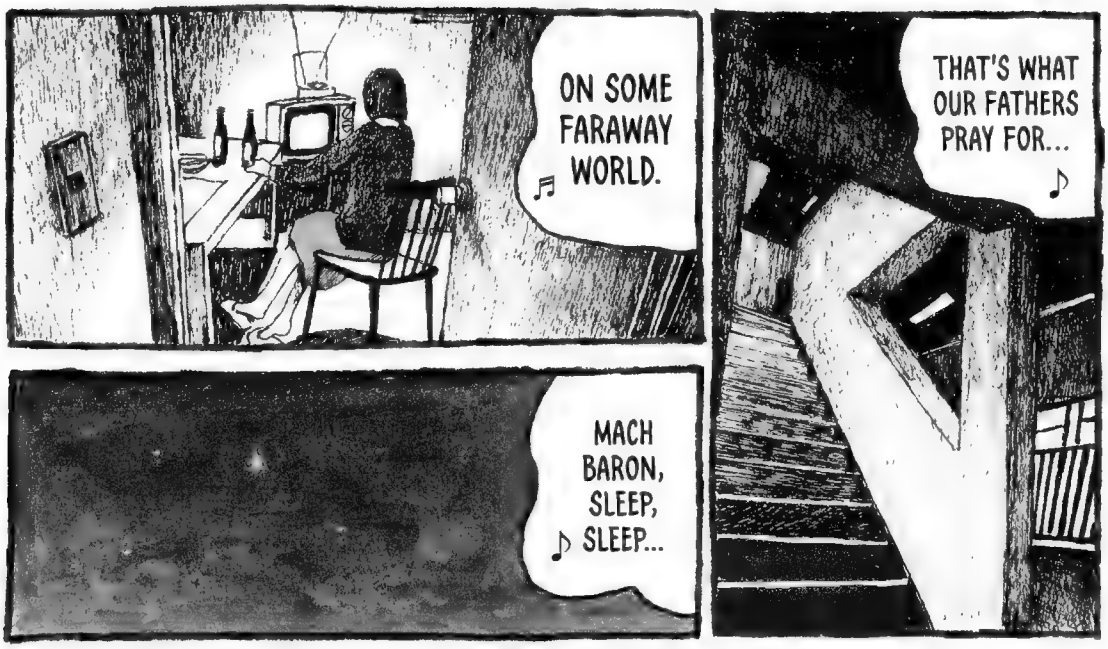

YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU GET TO SLEEP?
YEAH, I'M OKAY...
SORRY 'BOUT BEFORE.
HM?
HEY, MOM...
WE'LL TALK WHEN YOU'RE GOOD AND CALM.
OKAY.

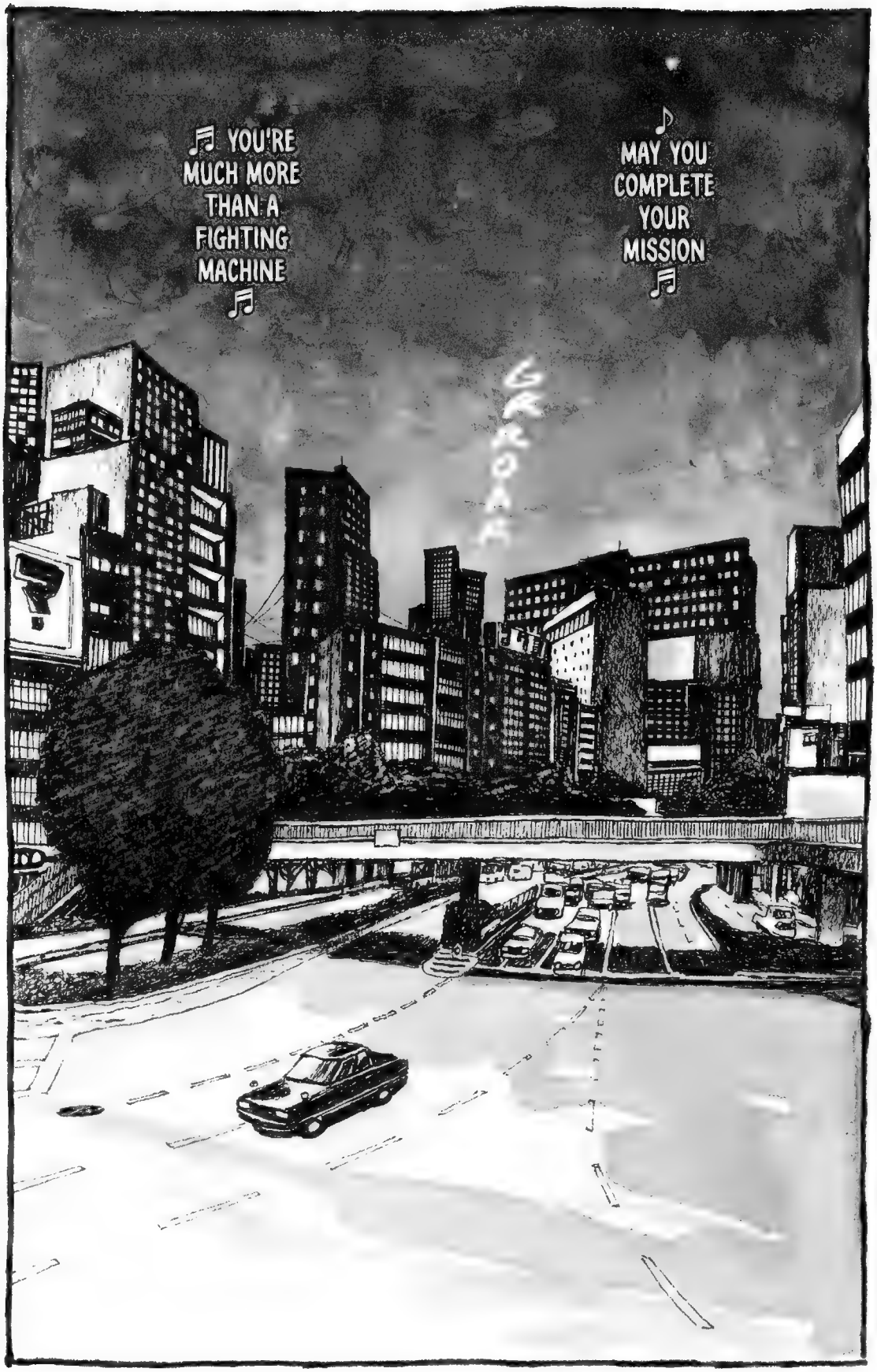
GOOD NIGHT, HARUO.
G'NIGHT.
KA-KLUNK
SIIIGH.

OFFICER BLUE-SKY, OFFICER ROLLER, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED TODAY...
SHUTTING DOWN POWER... KACHUNK.
...
FWZZZ.
GROAR
CITY ROARS LIKE THAT ALL DAY.
THAT ROARING NOISE...



*End title theme from "Super Robot Mach Baron," a popular tokusatsu television series, broadcast 1974 - 1975




♫ YOU'RE MUCH MORE THAN A FIGHTING MACHINE ♫
♪ MAY YOU COMPLETE YOUR MISSION ♫
GROAN

CHAPTER 12

"The city always seems angry."

"Like it's shoutin' 'HEY!' or somethin'?"

MIZUNO

I'll be back after work. Office phone 1234-567. If you go out, please lock up.
I'll be back after work.
Office phone:
1234-567.
If you go out,
please lock up.

HMM.
KLIK

KA-CHUNK
TMP
TMP
TMP
TAKKA TAK
TAKKA TAK
TAK
HONK
HONK
DING
DING
DING
GRRR
ROAR
VRAA
VRAA

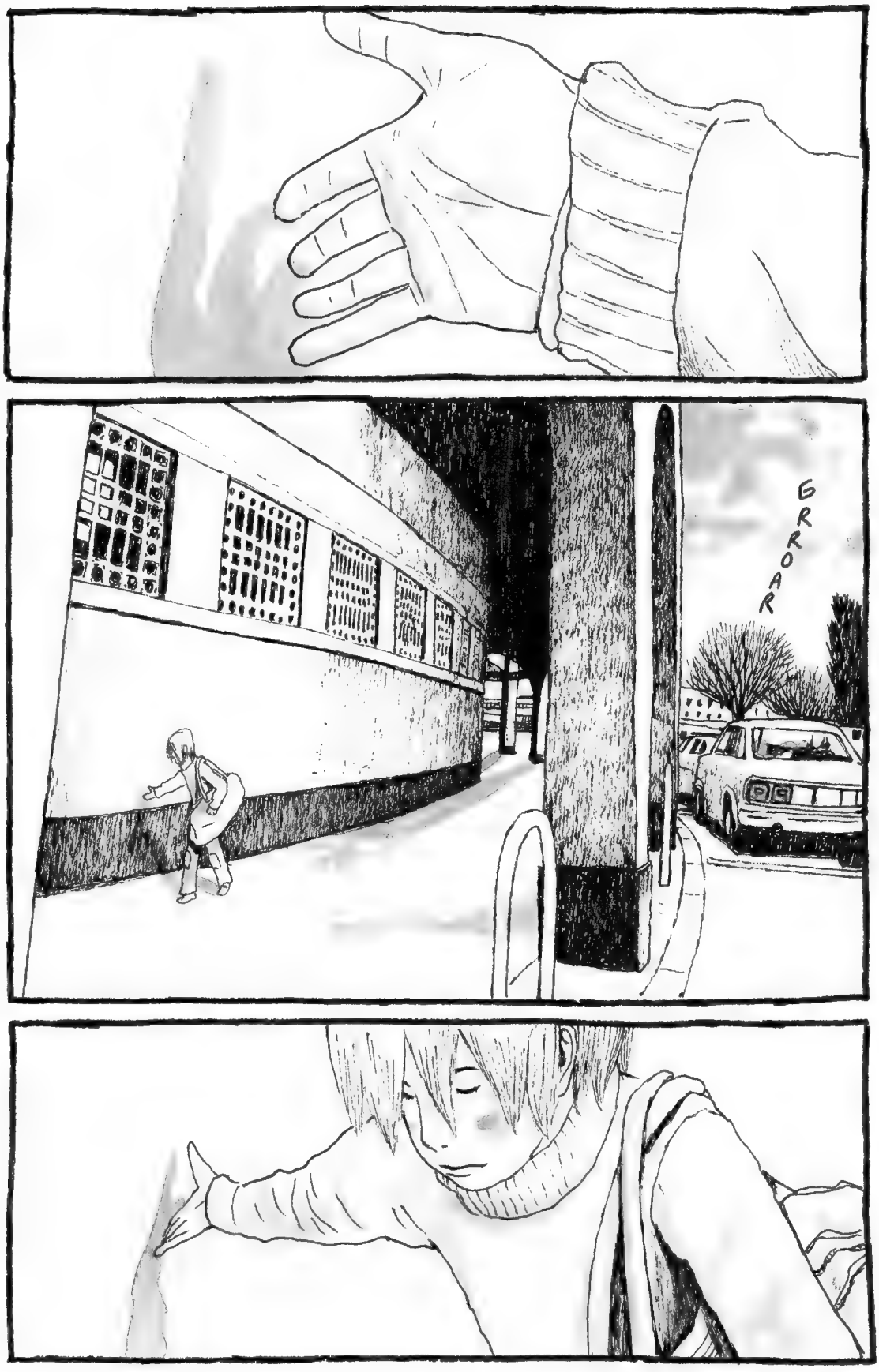
JINGU STADIUM?
SOBU LINE... IS THAT THE GREEN TRAIN?
SOBU LINE'S YOUR BEST BET.
IT'S A TAD FAR TO WALK.
Y'THINK I CAN WALK FROM HERE?
YEAH.
JUST ASK OVER THERE AT THE STATION.
YELLOW ONE, SON. GET OFF AT SENDAGAYA AND WALK FROM THERE.

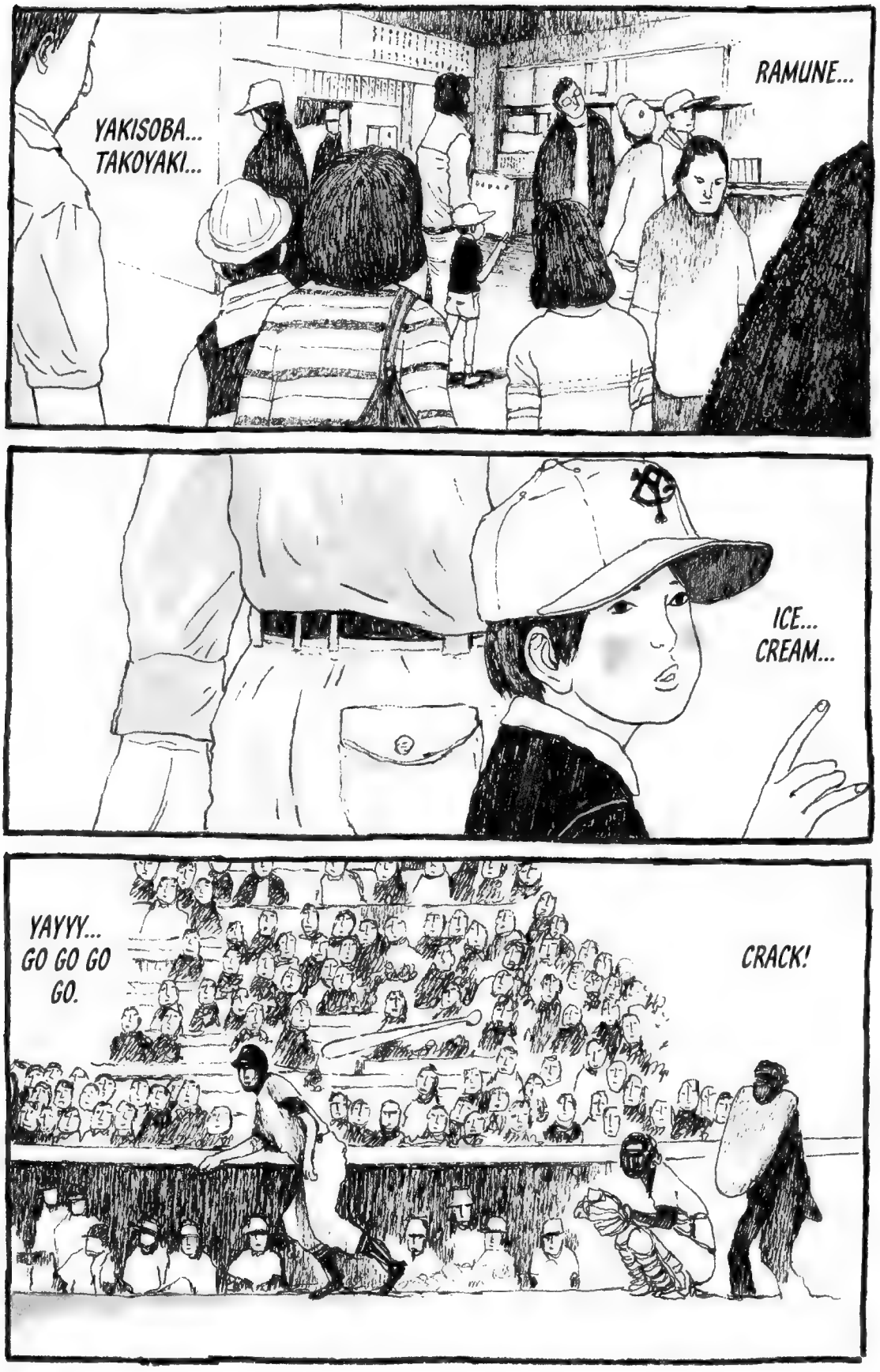
THANKS, MISTERS!
YEP.
NO ROADS LIKE THIS AROUND THE HOME.
WHA...? CIRCLES ON THE PAVEMENT...
GROAR
YEAH, TOKYO'S SO COOL.

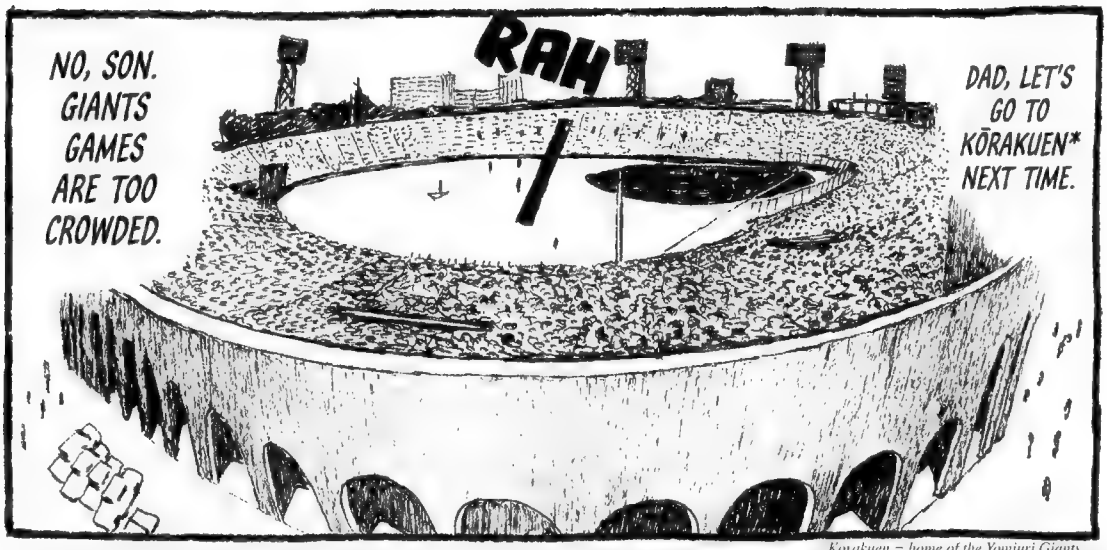
TOKYO TALK REMINDS ME OF HOW THINGS USED TO BE.
LIKE "A TAD FAR TO WALK."
"SOBU LINE'S YOUR BEST BET"... HEH HEH...
"YELLOW ONE, SON"... HEH HEH HEH HEH.
KLAK
KLAK KLAK KLAK

GRROAR

HEY, DAD, THERE'S THAT PITCHER, OBANA*!
*Takao Obana, starting pitcher for the Yakult Swallows, 1978 - 1991
LOOK, THERE'S YASUDA* TOO.
REALLY? WHERE?
*Takeshi Yasuda, veteran southpaw pitcher for the Yakult Swallows, 1972-1981
PLEEZE ...
DAAAD, PLEEZE!
PLEEZE!
NO, SON.
HEY, DAD, GET HIM TO SIGN A BALL FOR ME!
GO ASK HIM YOURSELF.
YAS

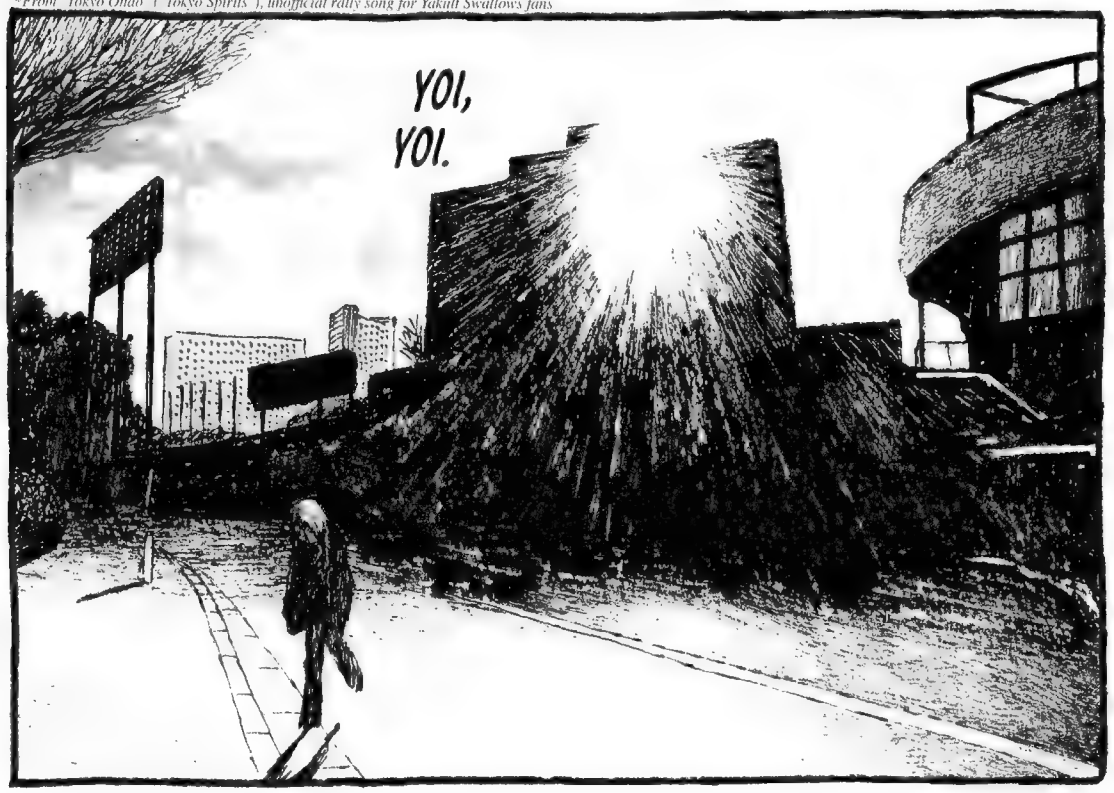

GRROAR


YAKISOBA...
TAKOYAKI...
RAMUNE...
ICE...
CREAM...
YAYYY...
GO GO GO
GO.
CRACK!



*Korakuen = home of the Yomiuri Giants

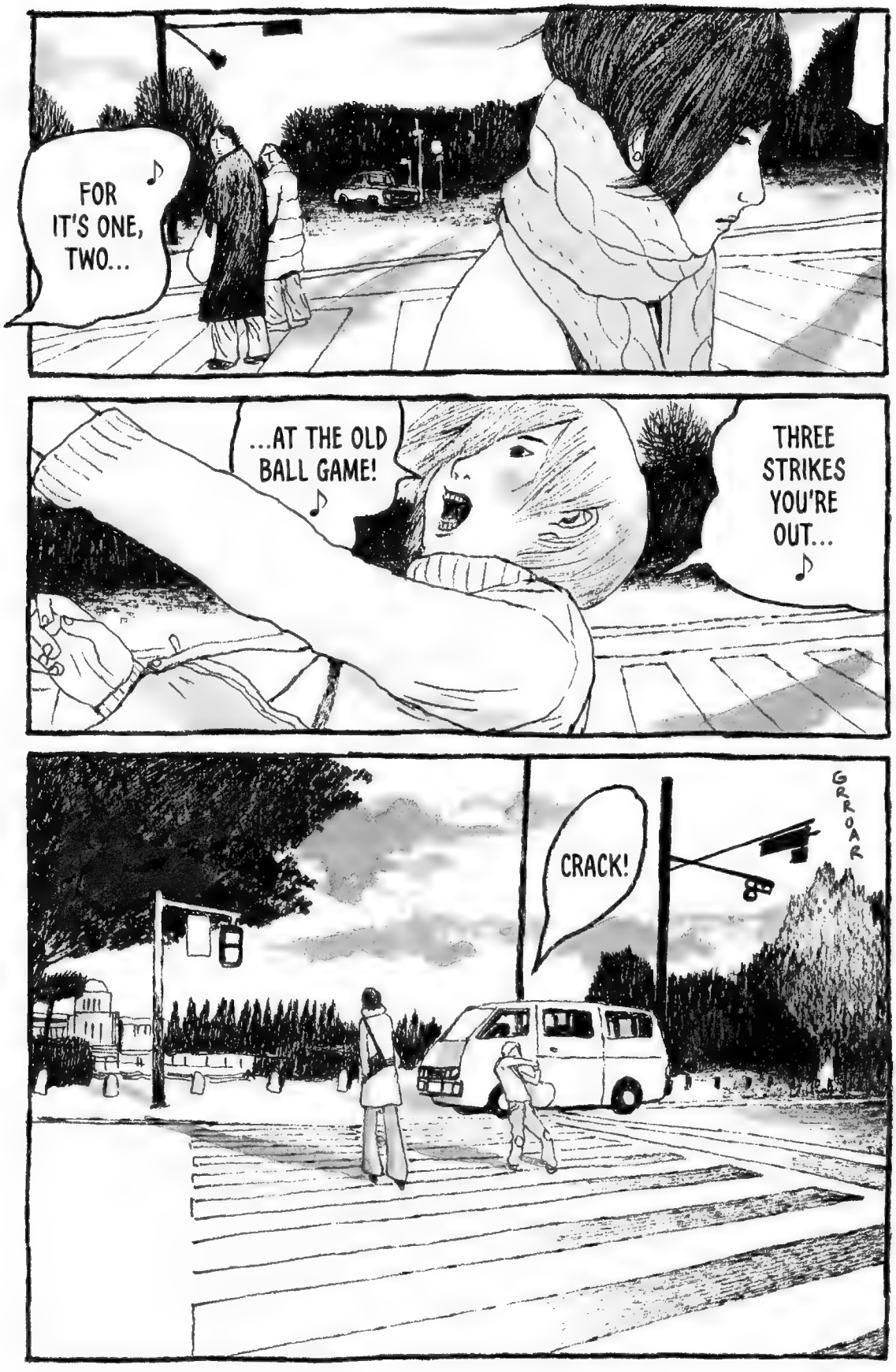
*From "Tokyo Ondo" ("Tokyo Spirits"), unofficial rally song for Yakult Swallows fans

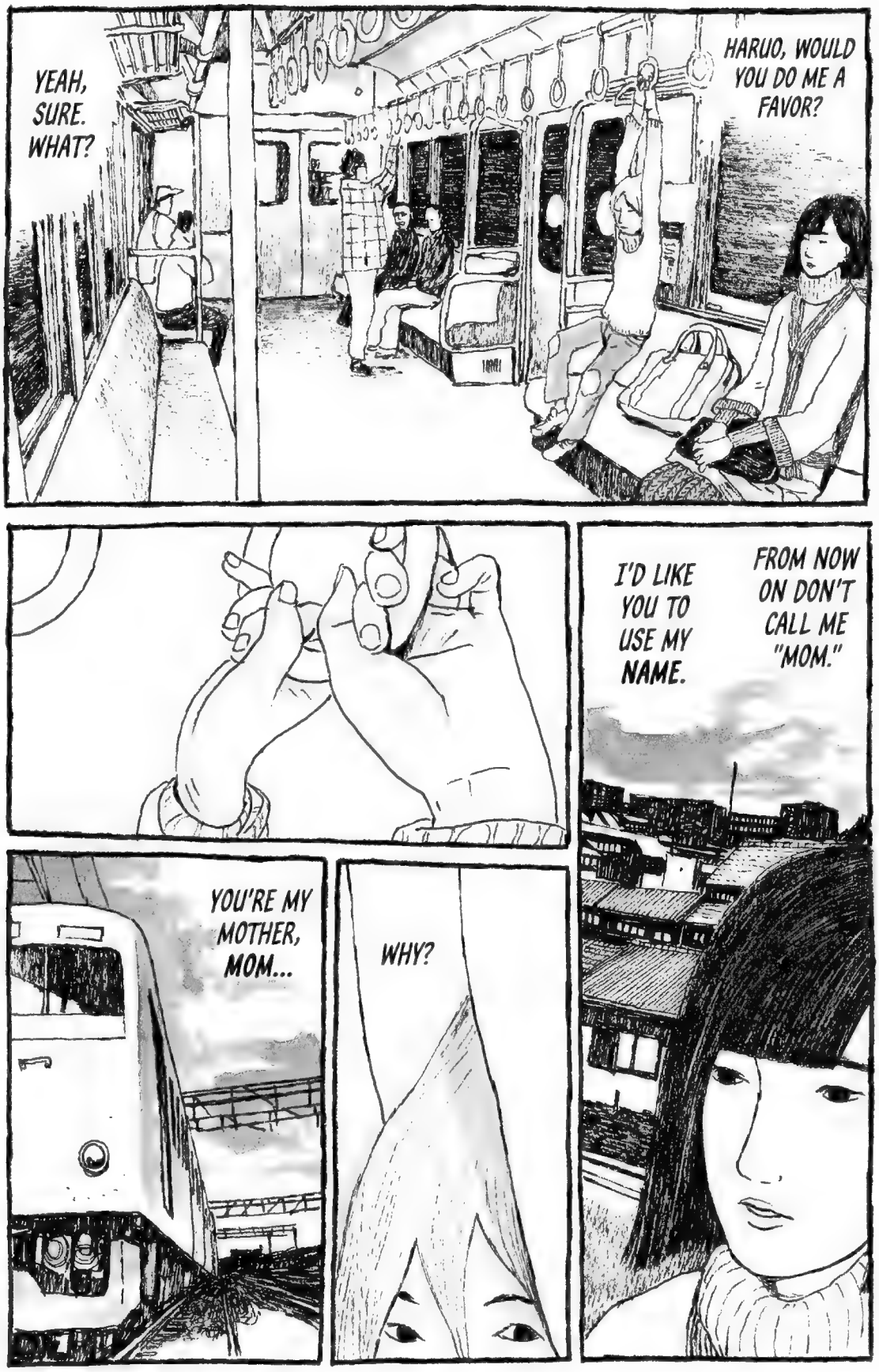


MR. POLICEMAN, HAVE YOU EVER *SHOT* SOMEONE?
NO, I HAVEN'T.
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO ASK.
HA HA HA.
SHOWS LIKE *BARK AT THE SUN** ARE TOTALLY PHONY, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
*Taiyo ni Hoero!, TV cop drama broadcast 1972–1986
OH.
HEY, HANDS OFF.
NEVER SEEN A REAL GUN...
ISN'T THAT YOUR MOM?
THERE.

いさつ
いにち
手配

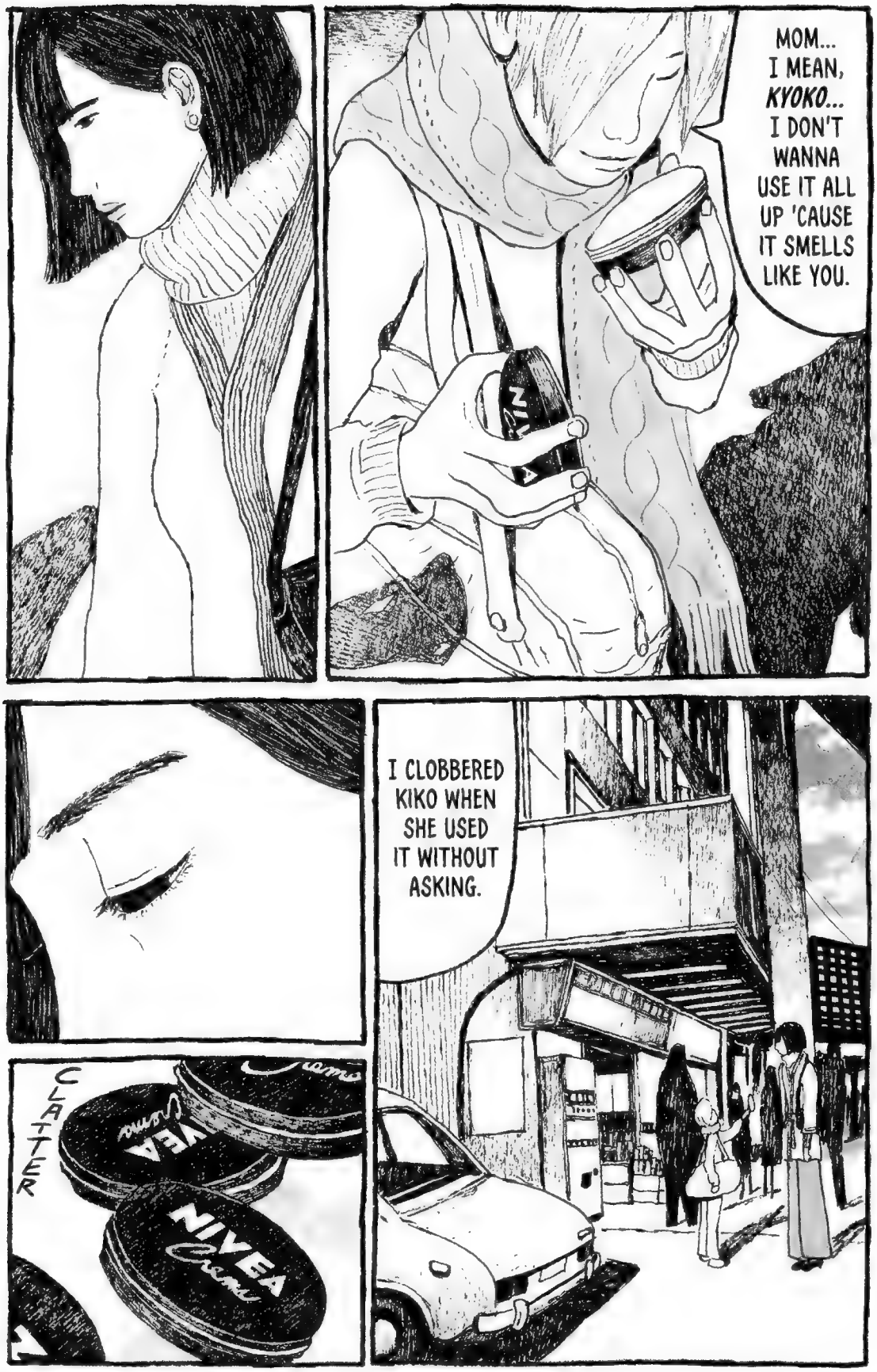
MOM, I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS...
...
YOUNG HARUO'S BEEN VERY PATIENT.
WELL, THANKS FOR COMING IN, MA'AM.
GRROAR
KLUNK
SO JUST HAVE A SEAT HERE, MA'AM...
WHAT'S INSIDE?
HEY, GET OUTTA THERE!
LET'S SEE, LOST CHILD FORMS HERE...


FOR IT'S ONE, TWO...
...AT THE OLD BALL GAME!
THREE STRIKES YOU'RE OUT...
CRACK!
GRROAR


YEAH, SURE. WHAT?
HARUO, WOULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR?
I'D LIKE YOU TO USE MY NAME.
FROM NOW ON DON'T CALL ME "MOM."
YOU'RE MY MOTHER, MOM...
WHY?

WONDER IF I CAN DO THAT...
BUT BEFORE I WAS YOUR MOTHER, I WAS KYOKO YANO.
音楽院
Ongaku Music School
SURE YOU CAN... YOU'LL SOON GET USED TO IT.
TAKKA TAK

HMM
...
WHAT ABOUT THE CREAM I GAVE YOU?
YOUR HANDS'RE SO DRY.
OH, YEAH, DON'T WORRY.
THEY ALWAYS GET LIKE THIS IN WINTER, Y'KNOW.
YEAH, I'VE GOT IT.


MOM... I MEAN, KYOKO... I DON'T WANNA USE IT ALL UP 'CAUSE IT SMELLS LIKE YOU.
I CLOBBERED KIKO WHEN SHE USED IT WITHOUT ASKING.
CLATTER
NIVEA
NIVEA

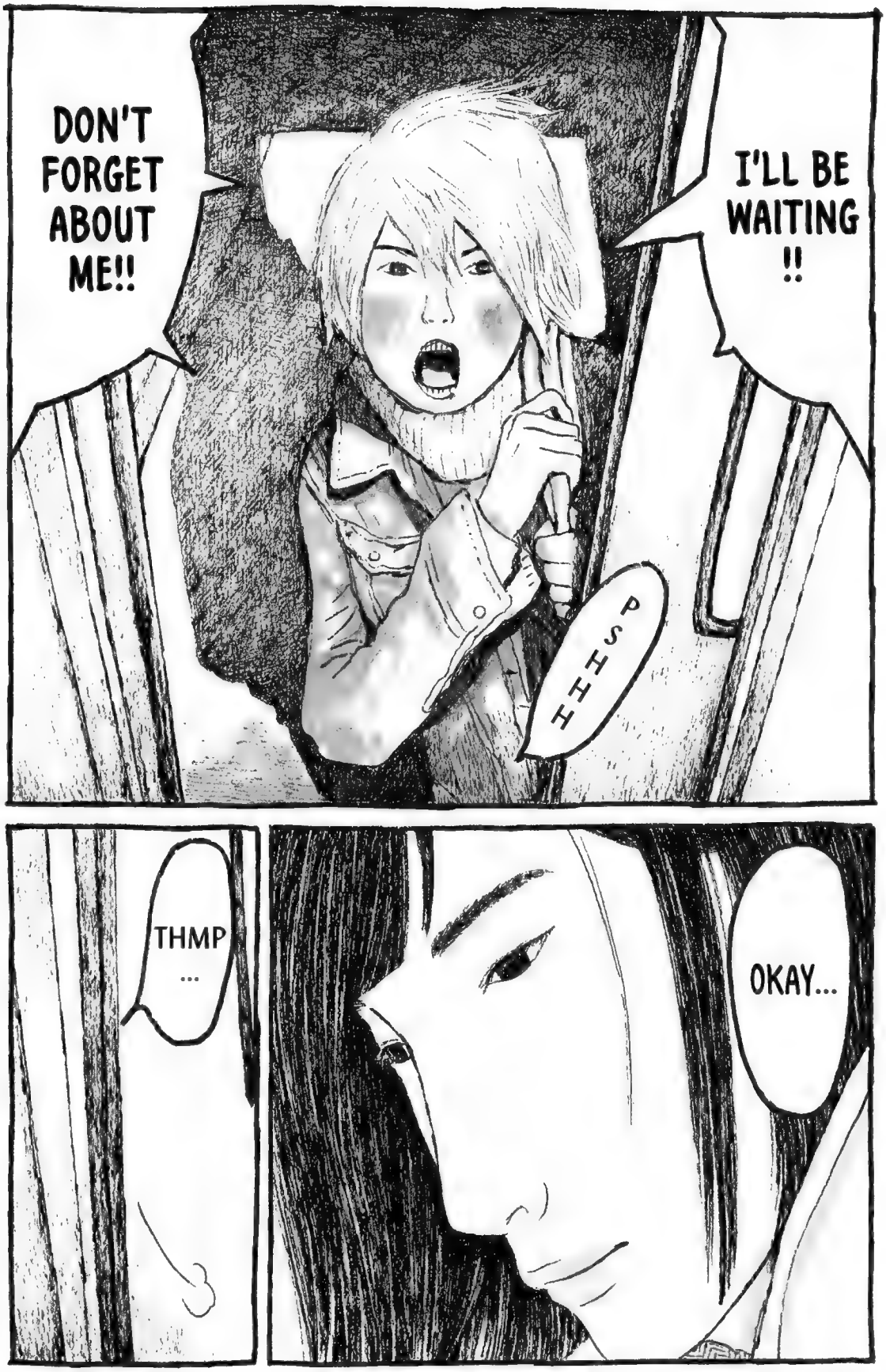
JINGLE
...
YES.
WILL YOU BE BUYING ALL OF THESE, MA'AM?
May I help you?
ALL OF THEM, PLEASE.

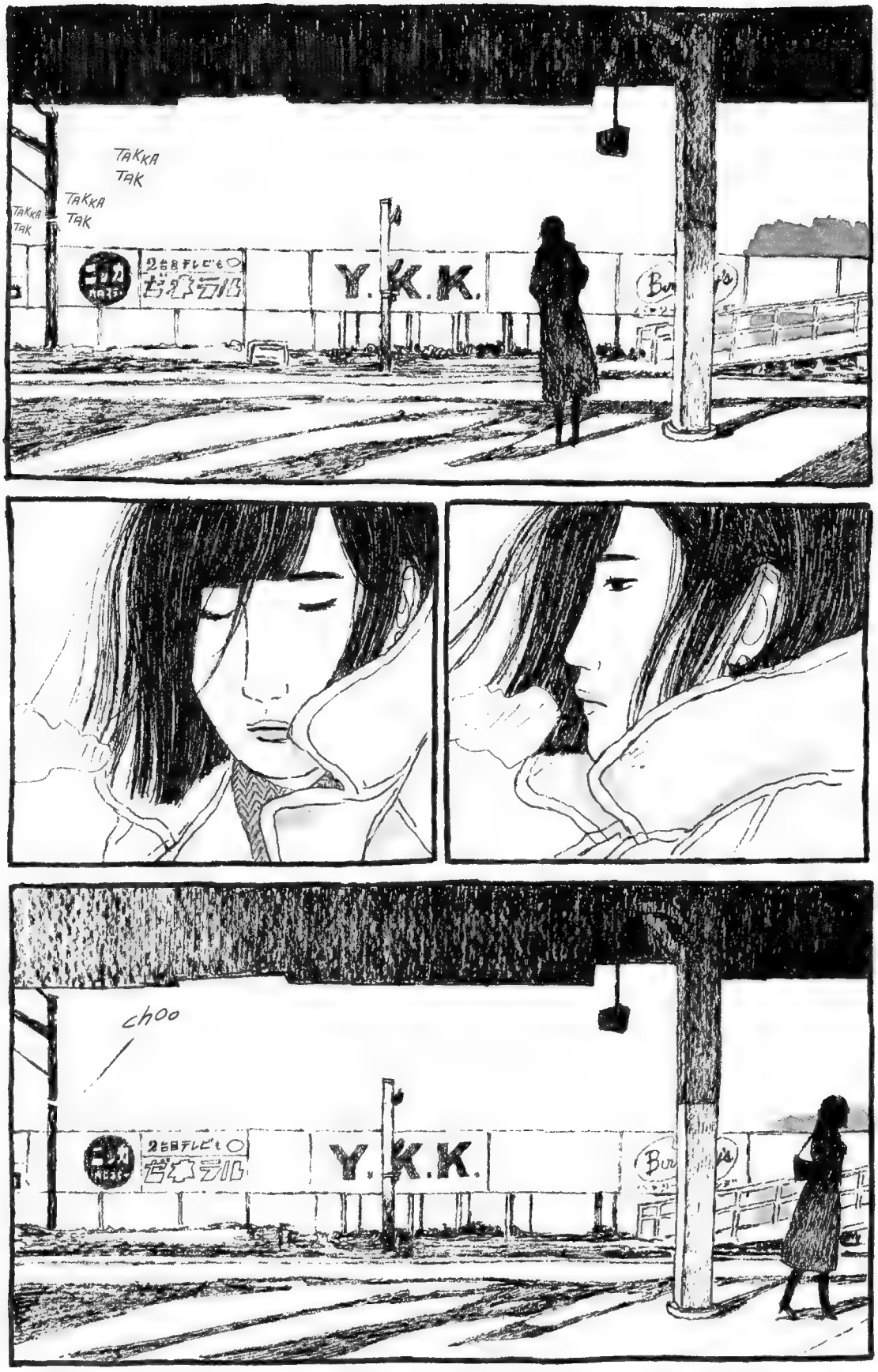
AND LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU RUN OUT.
SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS IF YOU LIKE.
WHAT DO I NEED ALL THIS NIVEA FOR?
So heavy ...
GRROAR
OKAY.
THANKS.
THE CITY AT NIGHT... SPARKLING... COOL AS EVER.
WOW.
DON'T WANNA GO BACK TO THE HOME.

WILL SHE EVER WANNA SEE ME AGAIN?
GRROAR
MOM
...

GOT IT?
DING
DING
DING
DING
IF YOU NEED HELP, JUST ASK SOMEONE, OKAY?
YOU SURE YOU DON'T NEED ME TO GO WITH YOU?
I'M OKAY, DON'T WORRY.
JUST A LITTLE FURTHER ANYWAY.
YOU SHOULD GET BACK TO TOKYO, MOM.
OOPS.
I'M S'POSED TO CALL YOU *KYOKO*, RIGHT?
HEE HEE.

RI
NG
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE, HARUO.
STAND BACK FROM THE PLAT-FORM.
SEE YOU, KYOKO!
TAKE CARE OF YOUR-SELF!
SEE ME AGAIN, OKAY?


DON'T FORGET ABOUT ME!!
I'LL BE WAITING !!
CLICK
THMP ...
OKAY...


TAKKA
TAK
TAKKA
TAK
TAKKA
TAK
Y.K.K.
choo
Y.K.K.

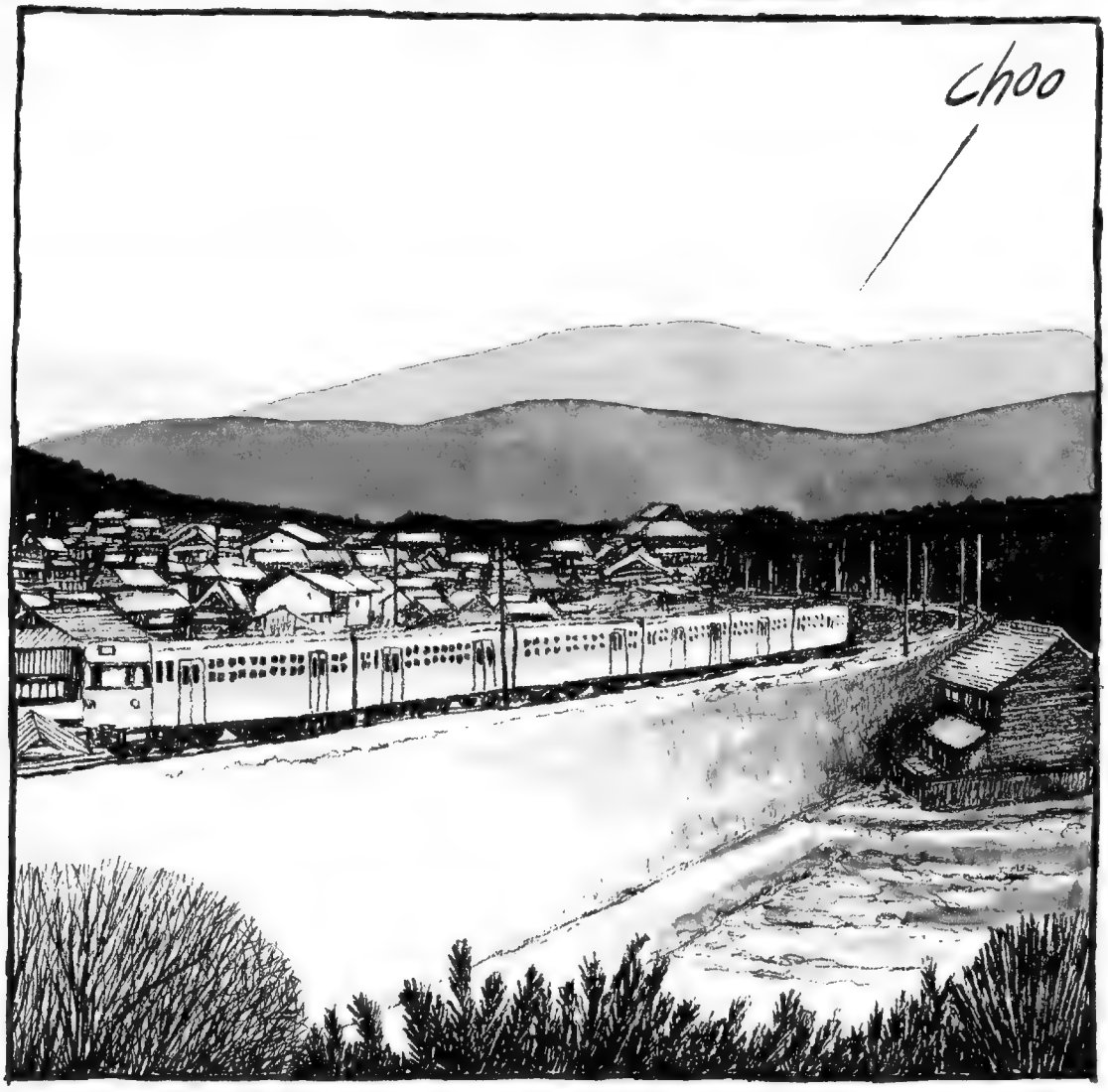
*From "Sonna Onna no Hitorigoto," a best-selling enka sung by Daishirō Masuiyama, 1977

YOU SEEM LIKE A PLAYER. ♪
TAKKA
TAKKA
I SIT DOWN NEXT TO YOU. ♪
TAKKA
HAIR'S ALL WHITE.
WHAT'S WITH THAT?
PHEW.
TAKKA
WHY SURE Y'CAN.
S'CUSE ME, MISTER, CAN I SIT HERE?
TAKKA

JUST SING AND YOU'LL FEEL FINE. ♪
TAK
TAKKA
TAKKA
TAK
...
YUMI'S OUT, BUT SHE'LL BE CALLING AT TEN. ♪
DELICIOUS.
I DIG FROZEN TANGER-INES.
SURE, AS MANY AS Y'WANT.
YESSS!
MISTER, CAN I HAVE ONE OF THESE?
tee hee
PSST
!

HEY, CHEESE-WIENERS!
WHAT THE HELL YOU STARING AT?
GET LOST!!
?!
KLAK KLAK KLAK

I'M GONNA *END* YOU!!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Sunny
2
END

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SUNNY

Volume 2
VIZ Signature Edition

Story and art by **Taiyo MATSUMOTO**

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SUNNY is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up.

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Also available in **ENGLISH** by **TAIYO MATSUMOTO**

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